

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS—DOWNTOWN EDITION  
INCLUDING DUMBO

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## MARTY'S TROLLEY FOLLY

### Beep sinks \$475K into failed buses



The fake trolley that travels among several tourist attractions in Brooklyn has been a bust, a new study shows. Riders are typically neighborhood residents, not tourists.

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

A trolley-styled shuttle bus that was conceived as a way of bringing tourists to Brooklyn's cultural destinations is actually being mostly used by locals hitching a free ride, a new study has found — yet Borough President Markowitz is about to sink nearly half a million taxpayer dollars into keeping the "disappointing" system going.

Markowitz has allocated \$475,000 to buy a new, fuel-efficient fake trolley to run its circular route, despite a report by the Center for the Urban Future that said the service functions mostly as "free transportation to go shopping or save [local residents] a walk across the park."

Even the executive director of the agency that runs the trolley admits they're a failure. "If you talk to the trolley drivers, it's the same lady and her three kids every Saturday at 3 pm and they're going from the west side of the park to something else on the east side of the park," said Ellen Salpeter, who runs Heart of Brooklyn, the privately and publicly funded community development group that operates the trolley.

The Markowitz-funded new vehicle will be greener, but critics say it'll be a waste of another kind of green unless there are major changes to the way the service is promoted to tourists.

The fake trolley connects several stops inside Prospect Park with the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza, the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

In 2006, the weekends-only shuttle attracted only 18,000 people — and the report's author, Tara Colton, said the ridership breakdown didn't mimicked the results of a 2006 Heart of Brooklyn study that revealed that 78 percent of visitors to local institutions come from Brooklyn.

See **FOLLY** on page 10



## Heads up!

Brooklyn Cyclones catcher Cesar Cordido chases after a pop-up during Monday's 5-0 victory over the hated Staten Island Yankees. Both the Cyclones and their rivals have qualified for the playoffs — and may meet in the first round, which begins Sunday. See **The Paper's "Triple-Threat Cyclones Coverage"** on page 18.

## GARDEN SNAKES

### Flower fiends filching foliage

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

A mysterious gang of marauding plant thieves has been yanking flowers and snatching herbs right out of the gardens of some lush homes in Bay Ridge.

At least 12 residents in a seven-block radius awoke two Fridays ago to discover that someone had used clippers to snipe their cherished shrubbery.

Residents were aghast at the sheer barbarism of the act. "I was crying all morning," said Fatima Yafet, a resident of 247 79th St. "What kind of people would do something like this?"

The "who" remains a mystery, but the "where" is public knowledge, at least to residents accustomed to the beautifully manicured lawns and gardens of Bay Ridge.

The green-thumbed perps hit the blocks between 79th and 86th Streets from Shore Road to Third Avenue, where stems now wither in front of many homes where green goddesses formerly blossomed.

It appears that more than one person is involved due to the sheer scope of the vandalism.

Yafet says she believes the bandits struck her house between 2 and 4 a.m. when they opened her front gate, walked into the middle of her garden, and cleanly clipped a three-foot high shrub known

See **GARDEN THIEF** on page 16

## A chicken-and-egg thing

### Red Hook rancher to be honored at Farm Aid

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Cockle doodle dude?

A troop of Red Hook chickens will share a bill with Willie Nelson and Neil Young at Sunday's eco-chic Farm Aid rock benefit on Randall's Island.

Organizers of the Sept. 9 show — an annual benefit for family farms — reached out to urban chicken rancher Maria Mackin and asked her to bring her egg-layers to the all-day concert to promote sustainable, local agriculture.

"They said to come on out and bring chicken wire. They'll supply the bales of hay," said Mackin, who described the chickens' job at the all-day festival as "hanging out." She said she planned to transport six of her calmer fowl in the family mini-van.

Mackin and her husband Declan Walsh are pioneers in the world of urban farming. While other members of the organic elite grow heirloom tomatoes, squash and exotic spices, the couple has kept a brood of squawking, bawling and hatching chickens in their backyard for years, selling the eggs for profit (and fame, it seems).

In Brooklyn, the wild-feathered birds — one looks like Rod Stewart with a spiky crown of orange feathers; another resembles Phyllis Diller — have plenty of fans.

"They're quite a sight," said Kayla Soyer-Stein, a frequent customer at the Mackin-Walsh egg stand. Soyer-Stein, who enjoys scrambling the fresh yolks with a little Tabasco-brand

See **CHICKS** on page 8

## Maria's chicks



Crazy Janey

Breed: Araucana Chicken

Characteristics: A South American breed prized for its bantam nature.

Fun Fact: Hens lay pastel-colored eggs. The Easter bunny got nuttier on this chick! They don't just look good, but are said to be more nutritious.

Old Hickory

Breed: Cochon

Characteristics: The perfect arm candy, imported from China in the early 19th century as a show bird, the Cochon gained popularity in the west because of its nurturing nature.

Fun Fact: This bird can get violent in the close quarters of the coop!

White Meat

Breed: Buff Brahma

Characteristics: These are big, dumb birds valued for the mod patterns on their golden feathers and their peaceable nature.

Fun Fact: These birds like to hang out. They also tend to get fat!

## Paper holiday

The Brooklyn Paper's offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Sept. 13 and 14.



## Bright day

The 40th annual West Indian-American parade on Labor Day drew a million spectators — and hundreds of colorfully clad performers — to Eastern Parkway.

## Bush's tornado aid goes to Queens, not Brooklyn

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

President Bush will send disaster relief funds to victims of the Aug. 8 storm that lashed a tornado on Bay Ridge — but the White House is only sending money to Queens, not Brooklyn.

As you might imagine, local officials in Bay Ridge are buzzing like a Category 1 twister.

"People are having difficulty recovering from the tornado because the process for making a decision has been too slow," said Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge), who had urged the Federal Emergency Management Agency — and his fellow Re-

publican at the head of the executive branch — to do the right thing by Bay Ridge.

Hundreds of cars, houses and roofs were damaged or destroyed by the tornado's 136-mile-per-hour winds that touched down around 67th Street between Fourth and Seventh avenues.

The tornado may have touched down in Bay Ridge, but Queens, not Brooklyn, bore the brunt of the damage, said FEMA spokeswoman Barbara Lynch.

"The borough of Queens was really in a lot worse shape," said Lynch. "That's why residents of Queens will be the only ones eligible for the aid at this time."

Indeed, news coverage of the storm did focus on the first-ever

tornado in Bay Ridge, but in Queens, more than 1,300 homes were damaged, compared to 80 in Brooklyn. There was also extensive flooding in Queens.

Lynch said that Brooklyn could still get a piece of the federal relief pie, but as in the Sept. 1 relief announcement, that decision must be made by the president.

Fossella met with FEMA officials last Friday and demanded a recount.

"I spoke with top officials to express the community's frustration," said Fossella.

The agency agreed to Fossella's request to re-examine how and where the relief money was allocated.



## Blowin' in the new year

Rabbi Aaron Raskin of Congregation B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn Heights (left) and Pratt Institute's rabbi, Simcha Weinstein, blow shofars to ring in Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which begins on Wednesday night.



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# HERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**SATURDAY**  
September 8

**Monster bash**  
Billed as "a block party aimed at sensory overload," the second annual Monster Island Arts and Music Festival will feature bands like Dynasty Electric and a project with members of the Ex Models (pictured) in addition to film screenings, art installations, a cocktail and more.

2 pm-10 pm at Monster Island (201 Kent Ave., at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg). Free. For information, visit [www.seenprojectcrobrot.org](http://www.seenprojectcrobrot.org).

**SUNDAY**  
September 9

**Ride the wave**  
Live doo-wop, a book signing by pro-fish kids author Jason Kelly and a slew of other activities make the New York Aquarium's "Sea Life Sock Hop" the place to be this weekend. And when the hop stops at 4 pm, there will still be some sunlight left to enjoy the beach by.

Noon-4 pm at the New York Aquarium Surf Avenue at West Eighth Street in Coney Island. \$12 for adults, \$8 for kids. For information, call (718) 265-FISH.

**TUESDAY**  
September 11

**Dancers remember**  
Today, the Silver-Brown Dance Company performs its commemorative dance, "OASIS 4," in the park at the foot of Washington Street—which has the best views of Lower Manhattan that you can get—in order to "honor the human spirit, and to send a valentine to the city of New York."

7 pm in the park at the foot of Washington Street in DUMBO. Free. For information, visit [www.brooklynbridgepark.org](http://www.brooklynbridgepark.org).

**WEDNESDAY**  
September 12

**Give a Hoot!**  
Drop into Alison Houtte's vintage shop, Hooti Couture, to check out the store's new look in addition to its new fall collection. If vintage clothes are your bag, you can stock up for fall and beyond.

11 am-8 pm at Hooti Couture (321 Flatbush Avenue between Park Place and Seventh Avenue in Prospect Heights). For information, call (718) 857-1977.

**FRIDAY**  
September 14

**Running men**  
Local heroes the Walkmen bring their show to the newly opened Music Hall of Williamsburg. We loved their last album, a remake of the John Lennon-produced Harry Nilsson record "Pussy Cats," but would be happy to hear whatever original material the band's been working on as well.

8 pm at the Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg). \$20 in advance, \$22 day of. For information, visit [www.musichallwilliamsburg.com](http://www.musichallwilliamsburg.com).

## 9 DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

**SAT, SEPT. 8**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**LULUWATER EXPLORATION:** Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitat. Binoculars provided. \$10, \$6 kids. Noon to 12:45 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 267-3400.  
**RED HOOK BOATERS:** Go kayaking! 1 pm to 3 pm. Park Row, Culler and Ferns streets. Red Hook. (917) 676-6458. [www.redhookboaters.org](http://www.redhookboaters.org). Free.  
**PROSPECT PARK TOUR:** Big Onion Tours hosts a tour. Stops include the Oriental Pavilion, the Vale of Cashmere, the Long Meadow, the Campdown Elm and sites associated with Stanford White, Lord Stirling and Marianne Moore. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 kids. 1 pm to 3:30 pm. At intersection of Prospect Park West and Ninth Street at the Marquis de Lafayette memorial. (212) 439-1092.  
**BIRDWATCHING CRUISE:** Learn about the history of Prospect Park, from prehistoric times to the present day, while touring one of Prospect Park's most scenic habitats. \$10, \$6 kids, 1:15 pm to 2 pm. Enter park at Lenox Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.  
**INTRO TO BIRDWATCHING:** Discover more about the natural wonders and fascinating feathered inhabitants of Brooklyn's flagship park. Noon to 1:30 pm. For more information go to [prospectpark.org](http://prospectpark.org). Free.  
**DISCOVER TOURS:** Explore the secrets of nature with teachers and naturalists from the Prospect Park Audubon Center. 3 pm to 4 pm. Call for more information. (718) 287-3400. Free.

**PERFORMANCE**  
**FULTON STREET BEAT:** Music with Imp2 and The Request Band. 1 pm. Albee Square at DuSable Avenue between Flatbush Avenue Extension and Albee Square West. (718) 403-1463. Free.  
**BAM:** The Royal Shakespeare Company presents "King Lear." \$30, \$55, \$75, \$90, 2 pm. Albee. "The Seagull." \$30, \$55, \$75, \$90. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4302. For information, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).  
**CONCERTS ON THE PLAZA:** Brooklyn Public Library's Central branches presents Aloya Afrobeat Ensemble and Chanda Rule. 2 pm. Enjoy the styling of jazz songstress Rule, followed by the 13-piece Aloya Afrobeat Ensemble with their thundering congas and horns. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2211. Free.  
**CONCERT:** Musica Bella Orchestra of NY performs. 7:30 pm. Holy Name Church. 245 Prospect Park West. (718) 499-3031. Free.  
**DANCE PERFORMANCE:** The Silver-Brown Dance Company makes its fourth appearance in Brooklyn Bridge Park, and will perform its program "Oasis 4," a memorial to the September 11 tragedies. 8 pm. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, Dock and Water streets. [www.silverbrowncompany.org](http://www.silverbrowncompany.org). Free.  
**BARGE MUSIC:** presents The Shanghai String Quartet in a program of music by Beethoven, Ligeti and Dvorak. \$40, \$25 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

**OTHER**  
**WEEKVILLE FARMERS MARKET:** Farm-fresh produce. 9 am to 1 pm. 1698 Bergen St. between Rochester and Buffalo avenues. (718) 788-8500.  
**OPEN HOUSE:** Cynthia King Dance Studio hosts demo classes, meet the teachers. Question and answer session. 11 am to 2 pm. 1256 Prospect Ave. (718) 437-0101. Free.  
**READING:** Brooklyn Public Library's Flatbush branch presents Gaj James, author, blogger and Brooklyn native. She reads from her debut novel, "I Don't Sign Up For That!" 1 pm to 3 pm. Wine and cheese served. 22 Linden Blvd. (718) 287-8997. Free.  
**MAC SUPPORT:** Mac computer class. Topic is: Working with User Accounts in Mac OS X 10.4 and Tiger. 2 pm. The Mac Support Store, 168 Seventh St., 2nd Floor. Register at [www.macsupportstore.com](http://www.macsupportstore.com). (718) 312-8341. Free.  
**BALL GAME:** Brooklyn Cyclones hosts a Baseball Legends fundraiser game. \$6 to \$13. 4 pm. Key Span Park, 1904 Surf Ave., Coney Island. (718) 507-7700 or (516) 625-0091.  
**EXHIBIT:** CNY Contemporary Free Art presents "Fire and Ice," new cast glass by Oliver Doris. Also, "New Program" by Wanda Taylor Remington. 293 Grand St., between Havensway and Bowling streets. Call for time and other information. (718) 218-9999.  
**FOOD NOT BOMBS:** Food Not Bombs hosts "Wide Open." Grassroots organization shares free vegetarian food with hungry people and protests war and poverty. 6 pm to 11 pm. McCauley-Welles Gallery, 129 Roehampton St.  
**HOLIDAY HELP:** Looking for a Holiday Helper? Call UJA-Federation of New York's Resource Line for a referral to local synagogues that are open to non-members. (800) UJA-FED7.

**SUN, SEPT. 9**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**ARCHITECTURE WALK:** Join the Urban Park Rangers for a walking tour of historic Fort Greene. Tour features a discussion of the neighborhood's architectural features. Bring water and wear walking shoes. 11 am. Meet at the Fort Greene Visitor Center high on the hill near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Entrance. For more information call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers. Free.  
**PERFORMANCE**  
**BAM:** The Royal Shakespeare Company presents "King Lear." \$30, \$55, \$75, \$90, 3 pm. BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. For more information go to [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).  
**CONCERT:** Congregation B'nai Anshin presents a High Holiday Yiddish concert. Cantor Schneur Zalman Baumgarten-Tovor performs. Songs include "My Yiddish Mame" and "Rezekes Mel Mandin." \$12, \$10 seniors, 4 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840 ext. 18.  
**BARGE MUSIC:** 4 pm. See Sat., Sept. 8.  
**DANCE PERFORMANCE:** 5 pm. See Sat., Sept. 8.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12**  
**90th Precinct Community Council:** Regular monthly meeting. 30 Montrose Ave. (between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 963-5309 for information.

**Tuesday, Sept. 11**  
**Community Board & Full board meeting:** Long Island College Hospital (339 Hicks St., between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for information.

**72nd Precinct Community Council:** Monthly meeting. Maumt Heim Center (650 Fourth Ave., at 63rd Street). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 965-6311 for information.

**76th Precinct Community Council:** Monthly meeting. 76th Precinct stationhouse (191 Union St., between Henry and Hicks streets). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 834-3211 for information.

**90th Precinct Community Council:** Regular monthly meeting. 30 Montrose Ave. (between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 963-5309 for information.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail [News@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:News@brooklynpaper.com) or fax (718) 834-9278.

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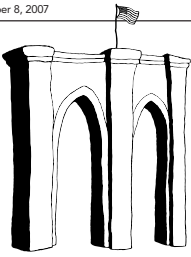
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**BAY RIDGE** Bay Ridge Paper, Bayside/Hunter Paper.  
**KENSINGTON-MIDWOOD** Midwood Paper, Kensington Paper, Ocean Parkway Paper.  
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# THE STOOP

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

## Ricky's opens! Where's porn?

Ever since Ricky's — the bright pink, techno-music bumping beauty shop — announced it was opening in Brooklyn Heights, parents started preparing to shield their children's eyes while strolling down Montague Street. We've all heard about Ricky's backroom, renowned for its chocolate penises and naughty costumes, and the Daily News and some of our prurient competitors in Brooklyn questioned if the store would corrupt our idyllic little neighborhood.

So having never actually been inside a Ricky's, I was half expecting to be met with whips and chains at the door. Imagine my disappointment when I discovered lunchboxes, temporary tattoos and Ugly Dolls instead.

"[The scanty reputation] is more talk than anything else," said the company's president, Dominick Costello, whose store opened on Aug. 31 (though its "official" opening was set for Sept. 7).

"People like to make noise. But we sell premium brands that people in that neighborhood use. Ricky's might have a funky connotation, but my mom is 60 years old and she likes to shop there."

I didn't see Costello's mom, but I did see a fair share of the over-60 crowd. "It's good to try out new things," said Angela Nunez, a Brooklyn Heights resident of 40 years who was perusing the hair accessories. "You don't want to know how many stores I've seen come and go. But this [store] is good and has lot for people in the neighborhood."

In addition to an endless selection of hair tools, make-up and costume jewelry, the store stocks high-end home items like Mrs. Meyer's lemon-scented aromatherapeutic household cleaners and

### HEIGHTS LOWDOWN



Juliana Bunim

### ON OUR OTHER STOOP PAGES

**PARK SLOPE**  
Fort Greene Clean, but empty

**GREENPOINT**  
Wacky artist show

**BAY RIDGE**  
Pipeline is safe!

online at [BrooklynPaper.com](http://BrooklynPaper.com)

adults have been several times a day.

Located downstairs in an out-of-the-way corner, the backroom takes up a small percentage of the 3,200-square-foot store. Its contents are relatively harmless — minus a selection of vibrating sex toys — with the majority being bachelorette party gag gifts like a penis piñata, silly wind-up toys and crowns emblazoned with mottoes like, "Find him before the ring."

One shopper who identified herself as "Mrs. Shankman," was there with her dog Skippy (yes, the store is dog friendly) and couldn't wait to come back without the burden of her pooch. "There's nothing so interesting in the general area of Brooklyn Heights," she said. "But this store has a lot of stuff I tend to buy. And I haven't been downstairs yet, but I'll be back out of pure intellectual curiosity" (Wink).

Costello said he hoped Ricky's will bring something "funny and cool" to the neighborhood — and, indeed, there's finally an alternative to either trekking to Manhattan or Park Slope for high-end products, or going for the cheap stuff at Duane Reade.

"Once you come into our store you realize we're not some schlocky place," said Costello.

"Parents should be worried if someone was putting in a porn shop or a peep booth. People don't know what they're dealing with until it's in there. Then they're like, 'Oh, that's it?' It's fear of the unknown."

### KITCHEN SINK

Atlantic Avenue's venerable

**Long Island Restaurant** —

which has been at the corner of

Henry Street for decades — is

apparently closed. At least a

sign in the window said so this

week. Stay tuned ... Congratulations

to **See Asian Restaurant** on

celebrating its four-year anniversary

on Clark Street. Considering the rapid

turnover on that stretch of the

Heights, it's quite an accomplishment. ... **Brooklynart-**

**project.com** is now taking

submissions to its contest "Battle

for Brooklyn." The top three

entries by Sept. 17 will win a

spot in the **Art Under the Bridge**

**Festival** in DUMBO later this year. ... **Chase**

**Bank** just opened in the

ground floor of the J Street

Condos on Front Street at Jay

Street in DUMBO, finally giving

the growing neighborhood a

second bank. ... **Plymouth**

**Church's** fall kick-off is this

Sunday with a barbecue open

to all friends and neighbors in

the Beecher garden, which is

on Orange Street between

Hicks and Henry streets. Call

(718) 634-4743 for information.

... And we bid farewell to

**Greens**, that vegan and kosher

Chinese restaurant on Mon-

tagne Street, near Henry Street.

We hear it will be replaced lat-

er this year by the **Island**

**Grill**. [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](http://Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

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## Fight to save historic DUMBO



Gleason's Gym owner Bruce Silverglade is participating in the Sept. 20 "fight night" fundraiser to save DUMBO's disappearing cobblestone streets.

By Juliana Bunim

for the Brooklyn Paper

It's one fight where everyone's in the same corner.

DUMBO, a neighborhood now known for art galleries, studios, and even some artists actually living there, will honor its hard-scabble, bare-knuckles past with a boxing fundraiser to help preserve the historic, yet vibrant, neighborhood between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges.

Hosted by the DUMBO Improvement District, the inaugural fundraiser will feature art, music and dance (that's the tribute to DUMBO's present) followed by a real boxing card put together by Gleason's Gym.

"We wanted to bring the community together to celebrate what DUMBO is now known for — its artists — and its past into one night," said Jane Kojima of the Improvement District.

No fight night would be complete without someone facing up the gloves. Luckily, Gleason's owner Bruce Silverglade, was game. "I try to do whatever I can," he said.

The marquee bout will pit Maria "the Blonde Bomber" Frisk against Sacred Downing, the nation's number one amateur boxer.

Not all the clashing will be in the ring. Classical musicians will take on hip-hop artists (albeit with beats and rhythms rather than dukes). Professional dancers will go toe-to-toe with break-dancers to see if the pinocette can knock out the moonwalk.

The winner will be DUMBO itself.

"All of the money raised will go to the maintenance fund for the cobblestone streets," said Kojima.

"Fight Night: The Fight to Preserve DUMBO," St. Ann's Warehouse (34 Water St., between Duane and Main streets, in DUMBO), Sept. 20, 6 p.m. \$50 per person (\$100 per family). Call (718) 237-8700 for information.

## Pineapple turns sour

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

This summer has been no

fruit smoothie for businesses

along Pineapple Walk, thanks

to the enormous blue scaffolding

that transformed the once

sunny pedestrian shopping strip

into a gloomy cave.

"It's dark all the time," said

Serena Bellino, owner of the

Tailored Pet. "Why would you

want to walk underneath it?"

Cadman Towers, the neighbor-

ing residential complex,

erected the scaffolding in May,

along Pineapple Walk, between

Henry Street and Cadman

Plaza West, a strip that is home

to four businesses whose owners

grumbled at varying vol-

umes about what they say have

been the negative repercussions

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Heights Kids manager Mark Nowakowski stands under the scaffolding that he says is hurting his Pineapple Walk business.

of the protective plywood.

Bellino — with her estab-

lished business and cadre of stal-

wart customers willing to brave

the cave for some organic dog

food and a chance to pet Primo,

the enormous cat — said the nega-

tive impact has been mostly aes-

thetic.

But it's a different story for

Brian Pang, the owner of

Brooklyn Dojo, a martial-arts

venue that opened this winter.

"I hate it," said Pang. "I've

only been here since February,

so I have a very limited cus-

tomers base. The scaffolding has

created a barrier that no one

would choose to walk under.

And then there's the increase in

homeless, and it's a lot dirtier."

Mark Nowakowski, the man-

ager of Heights Kids, a toy

store, echoed Pang's complaints

about the presence of homeless

men and women.

"The effect has been nothing

but negative," said Nowakow-

ski. "During the evening hours, a

lot of homeless people stop

here and drink. The other day

last week, they were breaking

bottles on the sidewalk."

John Lederer, the property

manager for the Cadman Tow-

ers, said the building has "ex-

tended ourselves to prevent any

loss of business."

Indeed, the Towers has pur-

chased advertising promoting

the stores and erected three new

signs for each business — one

on either end of the scaffolding

and one underneath. At the

merchants' request, the devel-

opment has also improved the

lighting.

"The scaffolding was really

the only option," added

Lederer. "We're working with

glass and metal [at 31 stories]."

He projected that the scaf-

folding would come down by

the end of October.

But as far as Pang is con-

cerned, "It can't go away soon

enough."

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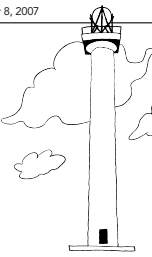
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# THE stoop

## FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

### Good ol' days? Not so much

As much as modern-day Fort Greene and Clinton Hill have their problems, boy, oh boy, would I take the tube of the zens over that of the '40s any day. Especially after listening to two elderly ladies reminisce about the supposedly halcyon days of the mid-20th century.

The Vincent Sisters (also known as Margaret, 72, and Joan, 76) sat before a crowd of 40 packed into L.B. Brown's small Clinton Hill Art Gallery two Sundays ago talking about the good ol' days in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill.

The ladies have lived in the same apartment at Wiloughby and Clermont avenues since they were kids, and they "intend never to leave." That's good, because the two are village elders, keepers of the neighborhood's history who can authoritatively say, no, this is not the first time the neighborhood has been rocked by change. (They are also living proof that a lady can be both 70 and stylish — what with their peasant shirts, oversized silver jewelry and artfully wavy hair.)

But local treasures or not, their depiction of the idyllic days of yore made me gag. Idyllic, my ass!

First of all, the neighborhood was so woefully homogeneous that Italians (Do santis!) were unelcome. "The neighborhood was mostly white and Irish," said Margaret Vincent, who has lived here since 1935 (when she was born on Washington Avenue). "When the Italians moved in, the Irish said, 'Oh, there goes the neighborhood!'"

What they really should have said was, "Oh, here comes some good food." This probably goes without saying, given the whole prejudice thing, but Fort Greene and Clinton Hill were also astoundingly isolated.

"The church was very much a part of our lives then, and everyone you knew went to the parish school," said Margaret. "You lived in the neighborhood, went to school in the neighborhood, went home for lunch," she said. "Who has lunch now? You take an energy bar."

OK, fair point. Frankly, I'd trade in my "veggie meatballs" from Rice for a home-cooked meal (and then a siesta) any day. But who's going to cook it? My mom? Shouldn't she be out earning her keep?

But aside from the oppression of women, African-Americans, homosexuals, and countless other categories of people, there were a few good things about Brooklyn back in the day that we might want to consider resurrecting.

Proposal number one: resurrect the Myrtle Avenue trolley. Oct. 4, 1969, an elevated train ran along Myrtle Avenue, all the way into Queens. Bureaucrats, in their deep-seated wisdom, said the destruction of the trolley on Myrtle, and the trolley throughout the city, would increase property values on the streets along which they ran. But we all know what happened to Myrtle Avenue (see "Murder Avenue"). Now that Myrtle has made a bit of a comeback, it would be nice to have an alternative to the B44.

Speaking of lazy legs, proposal number two: resurrect the trolley along DeKalb Avenue.

"They were so wonderful," said Margaret. "Now, the B38 — if it comes — you can take it, if you can get on it."

Sorry, but that's about all the appreciation-of-the-past I can muster. Aside from the better transportation, and the occasional Police Athletic Association-sponsored prize fight held in the middle of the street on a warm summer night, I am deeply, deeply relieved that those good old days are gone for good.

Rather than suffering from racial segregation and sexual oppression, I, for one, would rather spend my time kvetching about entitled brownstones and sidewalk-jogging stroller-pushers.

Who knew how good we had it?

Dana Rubinstein, a staff reporter at The Brooklyn Paper, lives in Crown Heights.

#### GREENE ACRES



Dana Rubinstein



Margaret (left) and Joan Vincent shared a lifetime of stories last week at a Clinton Hill art gallery. See Dana Rubinstein's column at right for an assessment.

### Cafe is clean, but biz falters

**New owner still paying price for restaurant's old 'dirty' charge**

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

A Fort Greene restaurant whose reputation was poisoned after it popped up on a politician's "dirtiest-restaurant" list two years ago, has cleaned up its act, yet remains on the verge of death.

"The Cafe was never able to come back," said Nadir Khelifi, the French-Algerian restaurateur who bought the eatery in 2005, three months after state Sen. Jeff Klein (D-Brooklyn) named it one of the 10 dirtiest restaurants in the city.

Klein's goal was to get the Department of Health to replace its somewhat-confusing rating system — which assigns points for each infraction — with a simple A-through-F grading scale.



Nadir Khelifi, owner of Cafe Lafayette on South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, may be forced to close, thanks to an unclear bill of health that the city slapped on the former owners. The restaurant is spic and span now, says the city, but Khelifi's business has not returned.

At the time of Klein's notorious list, Cafe Lafayette had failed a health inspection due to "inadequate hand-washing facilities," "evidence of live mice," "flying insects in food areas," and "dirty food contact surfaces."

Klein called that an "F" grade, prompting the bistro's owners to sell to Khelifi, who cleaned house (and kitchen).

Indeed, the Health Department cited the cafe for only nine points worth of infractions during its last inspection in November — far below the 28-point failure threshold.

Even so, Khelifi, a Carroll Gardens resident, says his business is no longer viable. "If things don't change by year's end, he will close, and then reopen under a new name and with a new concept. One option he's considering would be a 'little sister' restaurant to the new Moroccan tapas lounge he's managing on DeKalb Avenue, between Adelphi Street and Clermont Avenue, in the old Liquors space."

DK Holland, a local eater and a branding consultant, said that a rebranding of the restaurant, which sits between Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue, would be a good move.

"Reputation is huge, and when you lose your reputation you've lost everything," said Holland.

"That's what happened with A Table [the predecessor to Olea on Lafayette Avenue] — deservedly so because of their service, and lack of consistency. Word of mouth is how people operate in a community."

Klein told The Stoop that while his intent was not to shut down restaurants, he's not exactly crying in his steak frites about the impending closure of Cafe Lafayette.

"There's no excuse for someone who runs a restaurant to have an establishment that's unsanitary or unclear," he said.

**Correction**

An article last week incorrectly stated that Assemblyman Hakeme Jeffries will not soon be up for re-election ("Jeffries hits the street — literally"). He will face voters in 2008. The Brooklyn Paper regrets the error.

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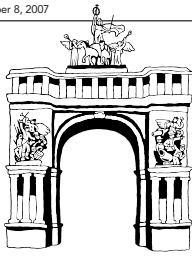
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# THE Stoop

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## A blog battle of Brooklyn

This is not the Park Slope I know and love. Once upon a time, there was a beloved bar and grill on Seventh Avenue called Snook's, Part "Cheers," part diner, this was the place where everyone went for a cheap beer or a steak, salad, baked potato and soft drink for \$14.95.

The restaurant was popular — for a fashion. But times change. And neighborhoods change. Snook's finally closed in April, so that tells you how popular it had become.

After Snook's put up the "Going out of business" sign, Park Slopers Roy and Mallory Rutledge rented the space and began turning it into the upscale Italian restaurant, Elementi.

OK, grown if you must. After all, the last thing Park Slope needs is another upscale Italian restaurant. But Roy, who was working for a restaurant group in Manhattan, and Mallory, who owns the M.Y.R. cosmetics store on Seventh Avenue, had a chef and a concept and — they thought — neighbors who would live up to their famously open-minded principles and judge Elementi on the merits.

But hell hath no fury like a bar-lover scorned — and fury hath no greater ally than the Internet, where anyone, whether he's a seasoned restaurant critic or just a pompous windbag, can spout off like an expert.

Even before the Rutledges hanged the Elementi sign, the Revenge of the Snook's Barflies began.

"I heard a rumor that she said she doesn't want any of the Snook's crowd in her restaurant," wrote an online gadfly named Cascopele on the message board Brooklynian. "The other part owner (or a guy) was quite made ... Really smart being s---ty to your neighbors."

Never mind that the closest thing the Internet comes to fact-checking is a quick Wikipedia search, but this one post set off an amazing (even for the Web) chain of attacks on the Rutledges — who were still weeks away from opening.

"Yuck. It looks like it took a wrong turn on the way to a Jersey mall," wrote a poster named "Germfree."

Not knowing what to do, the Rutledges committed the cardinal sin of the Internet era: They went across the street to Cascopele's employer — whose name was mentioned in one of her posts — and asked him why one of his employees would be trashing the still-opened restaurant.

Online retribution was swift and brutal. "They are trying to control me through my boss," Cascopele wrote. "I will not apologize to the new owners of Elementi for speaking my mind."

At that point, it wouldn't have mattered if Daniel Bonaldi was in the Elementi kitchen: the blogosphere had condemned the still-unopened restaurant to the dustbin of history.

"These people are merely turds," Germfree! wrote in. "Elementi, Olive Garden, Elementi, Olive Garden. Decisions, decisions," added DW438.

"The owners of Elementi must really have their heads up their asses!" chimed in Drea. "They can't really be that great if they're muzzling people's opinions before they're even open" (as opposed to spouting one's opinion on a restaurant before it's even open, huh?)

Meanwhile, no one had yet eaten at the now-open restaurant, which many of us in the print community still quaintly consider a basic part of restaurant commentary.

I asked one of the moderators of the Brooklynian message board whether it was considered fine by Web standards to slam an eatery before anyone has actually eaten there, but he wouldn't really answer. "That's kind of like asking the Internet what it thinks about the stuff that gets posted on it," he said.

That wasn't enough for me, so I contacted Cascopele myself. She seemed proud of her handiwork.

"I have a bit of a problem with people who push older businesses out only to open another cookie-cutter business in its place," she wrote via e-mail.

I reminded her that no one "pushed" Snook's out — that it merely closed for lack of business — but she responded that the Rutledges "turned a perfectly good restaurant into what they thought Park Slope needed. They think they know what the neighborhood wants but they never ask."

But that's what business people do: look around, make their judgment and let the market — not anonymous yahoos on Yahoo! — make its ruling (just as the market did to Snook's).

See **ELEMENTI** on page 6

PS... I LOVE YOU



Gersh Kuntzman



## Pizza Plus is back!

Roz Bayne is smiling again, now that Pizza Plus, her Seventh Avenue pie joint that was badly damaged by a fire in May (inset), is back. The inside's been spruced up — exposed brick! Fancy lights! Blackboard menu! — but Bayne didn't forget the elements that made it a neighborhood favorite, including kids' coloring books and family friendly menu.

## 'Dance' moves down the Slope

By Nicholas Sabloff  
for The Brooklyn Paper

It took months in a hot real-estate market, but Jennifer Kliegel has finally found a new home for her Park Slope Dance Studio — though it's not technically in Park Slope anymore.

An institution for more than three decades, Kliegel's studio on Seventh Avenue at Union Street closed in June after the landlord refused to renew the lease.

She'll reopen on Sept. 29 at 630 Sackett St., between Third and Fourth avenues.

Not all of Kliegel's 500 students, who range in age from 2 to 75, will make the trek west, but her loyal customers were

to be doing it [to find] reasonable rent and a long-term lease."

Though satisfied with the end result, Kliegel still felt burned by the white-hot Park Slope real-estate market.

"There was never any money discussion with me," she said. "I feel deceived."

That said, she was pleased that she could create a new studio "from the ground up" in what was once a garage. Now she'll have air-condition and spring-loaded floors — a mini-Mark Morris facility, if you will.

Not all of Kliegel's 500 students, who range in age from 2 to 75, will make the trek west, but her loyal customers were

dancing at the good news.

"It's the only great dance studio in the neighborhood for children," said Theresa Davis, whose 12-year-old daughter, Olivia, has been taking lessons for nine years.

The would-be diva, like her mother, was pleased to hear that

Kliegel would be carrying on.

"Jennifer's just like a kid, she's so fun," Olivia said. "Being here makes you feel like you're around something great."

Kliegel's previous landlords, George and Nicholas Katsounis, were not available for comment.



Park Slope Dance Studio owner Jen Kliegel with students (clockwise from right) Mika Schweitzer, Sadie Cutler-Connolly, Olivia Saleh and Madeleine Potoskie.

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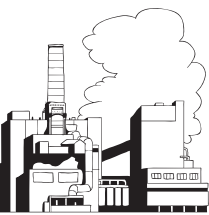
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# THE STOOP

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## The real story of an old pool

**BESIDE THE POINT**

Calling it a "majestic recreation facility," Landmarks Preservation Commissioner Robert Terrier recently announced the landmarking of Robert Moses's McCareen Park pool arch and the adjoining bathhouses — something that a few preservationists had been seeking for decades.

Forgive me if I skip the victory party. Many newcomers to Greenpoint and Williamsburg are vaguely aware that the renovation of the McCareen Park pool — into a pool, that is, not a concert hall — has been on hold for years, allegedly because of racial, ethnic and political divisions in the community. But few know what really happened.

As a result, a revisionist history has built up that itself ought to be demolished, especially now that we seem to be on the verge of seeing the pool reconstructed as the modern, year-round recreation and youth center that all of North Brooklyn could have been enjoying since the mid-1980s.

Full disclosure: I am not merely a witness to this story, but also an interested party to it. I moved to Greenpoint in 1985. Later, as the father of two young children, I joined various community groups to help with the pool and the park. My hope was that someday, I would see my kids — and thousands of other people's kids — playing, swimming or ice-skating in a new McCareen Park recreation center.

When you read about the McCareen Park pool online or in some neighborhood papers, you often find this narrative:

In 1984, the city undertook the reconstruction of all the Depression-era pools. Crowds of Archie Bunker-like bigots from Greenpoint, however, fearing the return of hordes of black and brown teens, stopped them. Cowardly city cops then decided to demolish the pool, but were stopped by a tiny band of preservationists who have heroically managed to save the pool for more than two decades so that we can all enjoy the sight of the McCareen pool arch and its grim bathhouse wings gracefully falling apart.

The real story, as you might imagine, is a bit different.

"There was a neighborhood group that was against the pool renovation in 1984," said Larry Smith — a longtime Greenpointer who played a key role in the renovation of the popular Metropolitan Pool in Williamsburg. "And they said some things that, honestly, could be viewed as racist, which I'm not excusing. [But it came after a decade of] incidents and a couple of drownings. The Parks Department and the police had basically lost control of many municipal pools."

But those opponents did not get their way. Instead of demolishing the pool, the community board appointed a task force drawn from the community that proposed a year-round recreation and community center with a gym and an outdoor Olympic-size pool.

"Not exactly what you would expect from a bunch of racist xenophobes," Smith pointed out. The plan would have replaced the summer-only pool with an all-year youth center.

This plan, which called for saving the arch but not the bathhouse wings, was discussed, debated, voted on, approved and funded, to the tune of something under \$10 million.

Construction was about to begin in 1985, Smith explained, when suddenly Phyllis Yampolsky — who was serving on the committee, visited the pool and decided that it was an architectural masterpiece.

She started calling everyone she knew, saying that we had to stop the demolition of the bathhouses," Smith said. "I remember telling my wife, Harriet, who was also on the oversight group, 'Someone has got to stop this woman before this gets out of hand and she derails the whole thing.'"

Flip in next week for the conclusion of (dramatic music) the "Real Story of the McCareen Park Pool."

Tom Gilbert is a writer and historian who lives in Greenpoint.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

The community organization **Town Square** is sponsoring music classes for young G point W burgers at a discounted rate. They are now registering students for three Wednesday classes: a 0- to 14-month-old session at 9:30 am; a 15-month to 2-1/2-year-old session at 10:30 am; and a 2-1/2- to 5-year-old session at 11:30 am. The 10-session course will be held at the **Polish & Slavic Center** (177 Kent St., between McGuinness Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue). Contact [www.townsquareinc.com](http://www.townsquareinc.com) for info. ... Meanwhile, the **Hamilton Dance Studio** is signing up students for its fall sessions at 45 Newell St. (between Nassau and Driggs avenues). Registration will take place September 6-8. Call (718) 349-1617 or visit [hamiltondance.com](http://hamiltondance.com) for info. ... Military Appreciation Day ceremonies on Aug. 18 at Yankee Stadium featured patriotic songs by our pal **John Rivetti**, born and raised in Greenpoint. Rivetti is the author of "For All Our Heroes," a tribute to those who died on 9-11. He can be contacted through his label, Amblynn music, at [www.amblynnmusic.com](http://www.amblynnmusic.com) or [www.myspace.com/amblynnmusic](http://www.myspace.com/amblynnmusic).

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## A true storefront artist

By Neil Munshi  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Walking into Greenpoint's Wash & Dry Laundromat on Meserole Avenue on Wednesday afternoon, customers might have been hard-pressed to notice the art exhibit haunting the back corner.

That's because an elderly customer had asked owner Elvin Tung to turn off the 13-inch TV propped up on the change machine; she said the four-minute film loop of colorful images undulating and floating over a blue background had made her dizzy.

Everyone's an art critic these days.

Tung's store, along with a flower shop and an electronics store nearby, houses one part of a three-part video cycle, "Strands," created by local artist Dillon De Give. The works pop up in unexpected places — hovering over multicolored piles of laundry bags, in a bank of TVs playing travel shows, sunk in between boomboxes and a Chinese evergreen.

The images — and accompanying soundtrack — are linked to form a past, present and future cycle, said De Give, which crystallizes in the environments in which they are located.

But De Give's grand vision is lost on most of the storeowners — who "curate" the pieces — and many of their customers, they said.

"I didn't know what kind of project it is — I still don't," said Tung, 50. "But [de Give] is a regular customer, so I had no reason to say no."

The dry cleaner-cum-curator said most customers either don't notice the art or wonder aloud about what it is — if not what it represents — though younger customers seem to like it.



Artist Dillon De Give has installed his video series in three Greenpoint stores, including a laundromat (above) and a TV shop (top).

That seems to be the case at MTV Super Sound Electronics & Appliances, around the corner on Manhattan Avenue, where a 90-second loop of a disembodied arm setting off

cats," said Peter Szymanski, 26, an employee.

Up the block at Greenpoint Floral Co., owner Nick Giannos, 40, is proud of his place at the end of what he sees as an art "scavenger hunt."

Giannos, whose store's video monitor plays a loop featuring a shredded green T-shirt shuddering in the wind, seemed astounded to what De Give was going for, and De Give said he even offered some suggestions.

Others, like MTV's Mounir Youssef, were accommodating, if still utterly confused.

"It means something," Youssef said, throwing his arms up. "But I don't understand." "Strands," by Dillon de Give, runs through Sept. 10 at Wash & Dry Laundromat (120 Meserole Ave., at Leonard Street); MTV Super Sound Electronics & Appliances (747 Manhattan Ave., between Meserole and Norman avenues); and Greenpoint Floral Co. (703 Manhattan Ave., at Norman Avenue). For information, go to [www.impluslab.com](http://www.impluslab.com).

## Advice-giving robber nabbed!

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

The chutzpah-filled thief who not only robbed a Williamsburg cabbie, but advised him to "put in a partition," was nabbed this week when he tried to pull off the same crime.

In the original crime, cops say Alberto Pacheco, 44, entered a taxi company's dispatch office at Metropolitan Avenue be-

tween Havemeyer Street and Marcy Avenue at around 3 am on Aug. 24.

He hired a cab and told the 29-year-old driver to take him to the corner of South Fourth and Roebing streets — where he then pulled out a gun, pressed it to the driver's neck and robbed him of \$160.

As he fled the car, he added insult to injury by screaming back at the victimized cabbie, "Piece of advice: Next time, put in a partition or camera."

Those words came back to haunt Pacheco, cops said, when he returned to the same dispatch center at around 3 am on Sept. 4 and told the employee that he needed a cab.

This time, the employee recognized Pacheco and called cops, who collared the suspect and charged him with robbery, grand larceny, weapons possession and menacing.

Pacheco was awaiting arraignment at press time and could not be reached for comment.

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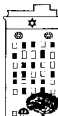
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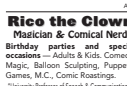


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# The Brooklyn Paper

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## It's the last first day for Smartmom

**T**HE NIGHT BEFORE the first day of school, there was a festive BBQ in the front yard of Smartmom's apartment building. A potluck bonanza, the impromptu menu included pasta, pizza, chicken, turkey burgers, shish kebabs, roasted veggies and a seemingly endless supply of cold white wine. Best of all, the adults got to commiserate about the end of summer.

"I'm just not ready for this," one neighbor told Smartmom. "It feels very sudden this year." "I am so dreading tomorrow," another neighbor said. "This summer went by in a flash." Clearly, it was the parents who were having a hard time letting go of the carefree days of summer. The kids seemed to be facing the transition with energy and aplomb. A girl who lives in the building next door was hula hoping while finishing "A Tale of Two Cities," the required summer reading at MS 51.

The Oh So Feisty One wore her first-day-of-school outfit to the barbecue: a test-run of the stylish blue dress, black leggings, and new slip-on black sneakers. Needless to say, she got a lot of compliments.

Upstairs, her blue and purple messenger-style bag was already packed and ready for its debut the next day.

Teen Spirit was clearly in denial about his first day. When Smartmom saw him walk past



her with a large group of friends, she reminded him that he needed to get a good night's sleep for a change — so that he could leave the house by 6:45.

"Don't worry, Mom," he told her. "But worry she did. It's not like he's been awake before 1 pm in months. Smartmom was stressing because she knows what it takes to get her kids to school."

Tabloid Mom could tell that Smartmom was agitated. She told her to have another glass of Chardonnay. But the wine only made Smartmom more moose. She thought of that line from "Charlotte's Web": "The crickets sang in the grasses. They sang the song of summer's ending, a sad monotone song. 'Summer is over and gone, they sang. Over and gone, over and gone. Summer is dying, dying.'"

Oy. The sound of those crickets. It's been so loud on Third Street that sometimes Smartmom wonders if they're in her living room.

Thankfully, Tabloid Mom interrupted the morbid daydream. "What middle school's are you looking at?" she asked, posing a question that Smartmom knows she'll be hearing at least 43 times a day for the next few months.

Yes, this is OSFO's last year at PS 321 and soon it will be time to fill out those dreaded middle school applications. Smartmom forced herself to remember the names of the local middle schools she'd blocked out of her mind all summer.

It's not like she thought about middle school options while she was working on her novel, in her Edwidge Lestrade room with an ocean view on Block 10.

She certainly did not read "New York's Best Middle Schools," by Clara Hemphill, while sitting on the beach in Anagnapstun.

And don't think she was comparing middle school test scores while sipping latte and reading beat poetry in Mario's Cigar Store Café in San Francisco.

But Tabloid Mom's question brought it all back. All of it. The next morning at 6 am, Smartmom wanted to ignore the annoying beep of her alarm clock. But she didn't.

She wanted to stay under the covers and continue dreaming. But she didn't.

Instead, she dragged herself into Teen Spirit's room and shook the sleeping giant awake. She knocked on Mrs. Kravitz's door to borrow back the butter she'd lent her a few days before so that Teen Spirit's bagel could be buttered.

By 7 am, Teen Spirit was out the door, and OSFO was in her back-to-school outfit and ready to go.

Later, they walked slowly up Third Street to Seventh Avenue as Smartmom thought about all the back-to-school errands that lay ahead (supplies from Save on Fifth, groceries from the Co-op, a new bag for Teen Spirit from Brooklyn Industries). But then something miraculous happened:

**S**MARTMOM SAW THE parade of parents on Seventh Avenue. Friends. Acquaintances. Familiar faces. It was good to see them all.

There's Angela, the friendly crossing guard on Second Street, who wished them a good year at school.

When they entered the PS 321 backyard, Smartmom noticed that one of OSFO's teacher's (from last year's pregnant (and has a little bump to prove it), Cute.

While OSFO lined up with her classmates, Smartmom took

## SMART mom

By Louise Crawford



in the scene. Friends ran up to OSFO and gave her a hug. A friend's redheaded daughter got so unbelievably tall. Brainy Lawyer and her family looked so untanned and healthy. Tall and Sultry was jet-lagged after month in Italy.

"Hey, moms, pose for a picture," said Groovy Architect Mom. "It's our last first day of school at PS 321."

Smartmom joined this interesting gaggle of mom-friends for an enthusiastic photograph. They all smiled. Smartmom felt a twinge of nostalgia. She'd been through a lot with these women.

After the flash, the moms dispersed. They were off to work, off to do errands. One mom said she was "off to clean the stacks of mail on my desk."

Buoyed by the warmth of her mom-friends and the scene in the backyard, Smartmom was ready to face her first day of school, the school year, and everything else that comes her way.

Louise Crawford also blogs the Web site, "Only the Old knows Brooklyn."

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## FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 8**  
10 am-5:30 pm: Butterfly garden. Prospect Park (enter at 450 Flatbush Ave., at Ocean Avenue). \$6. \$2.25 seniors. \$1 kids 3 to 12 years. Free for children under 3. Call (718) 396-7339 for info.

10 am-5 pm: Browse classes. Brooklyn Arts Exchange (621 Fifth Ave., at Eighth Street in Park Slope). Free. For info, call (718) 632-0018.

10 am-4 pm: Vintage subway cars. New York Transit Museum (Brooklyn Place at Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn Heights). Call (718) 694-1600 for information or visit [www.info@nycmuseum.org](http://www.info@nycmuseum.org).

Noon-4 pm: "Sea Life Sock Hop." New York Aquarium (West Eighth Street at Surf Avenue in Coney Island). \$12. \$8 kids ages 2 to 12 and for seniors. Children under 2 admitted free. For info, call (718) 265-7574.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "The Prince and The Magic Flute." Puppetworks (338 Surf Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope). \$8 adults, \$7 kids. Reservations suggested. For info, call (718) 965-5391.

2-4 pm: Creative Art-Making. The Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). \$8 adults, students with valid ID. \$4. Adults 62 and over \$4. members and children under 12 free. For info, call (718) 638-5000.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 9**  
Noon-5 pm: Browse classes. The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (68 Seventh Ave., at Lincoln Place in Park Slope). Free. For info, call (718) 622-3300.

1 pm: "Reveries of the Harlot." Fort Greene Park visitor center (high on the hill near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Entrances). Free. For info, call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers.

1, 3 and 5 pm: Circus Amok performance. Prospect Park (enter park at Ninth Street and Prospect Park West). Free. For info, visit [www.circusamok.com](http://www.circusamok.com).

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "The Prince and The Magic Flute." See Saturday, Sept. 8.

Noon-4 pm: "Sea Life sock Hop." See Saturday, Sept. 8.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 10**  
9:30-11 am: "Nature Babies." In Prospect Park. \$20. For info, visit [www.naturebabies.org](http://www.naturebabies.org).

3 pm: After-school dance. Danceworks (422 Greenwood Ave., at East Fourth Street in Windsor Terrace). \$5. For info, call (718) 522-4696.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 15**  
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "The Prince and The Magic Flute." See Saturday, Sept. 8.

1, 3 and 5 pm: Circus Amok. See Saturday, Sept. 9.

To list your event, email information to [calendar@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:calendar@brooklynpaper.com), or fax to (718) 834-9208.



## Partners for Success in Education

By Randi Weingarten

**S**tudents, parents and teachers across New York City are preparing for a challenging new academic year as the public school system embarks on its fifth major reorganization in five years.

The new structure puts schools at the center of decision-making, and creates both opportunities and challenges. Experience tells us it will likely take some time for schools to adjust to the changes. But New York City's 100,000 public school educators stand ready to roll up their sleeves and work with principals, parents and students to achieve academic success. Regardless of what the bureaucratic structure is, we know that true partnership is the key to making our schools work for kids.

As with any new undertaking of this size and scope, it's not unexpected that some of those affected might experience a degree of apprehension. But this much is clear - in order for the new school autonomy to work, teachers need to be part of the decision-making process. Principals provide our school children with the best possible education only if they create partnerships with teachers and parents.

Teachers have earned and deserve this respect. When touting the school system's academic improvements, Mayor Michael Bloomberg regularly, and rightly, credits city teachers, call-

ing them "spectacular" and "the best in the world" for moving schools in the right direction. Just imagine how much more we could do for students if teachers were treated more professionally, schools were run more collaboratively and the system itself became more open and transparent for parents.

How to realize this partnership? One excellent vehicle is the School Leadership Team, wherein teachers and principals work with parents to shape each individual school's educational mission and determine how best to achieve it.

This type of team approach to running our schools is very promising but only if done properly and allowed to flourish. The Department of Education cannot simply pay lip service to the concept of partnership; it has to be real in order to be meaningful. It's one thing for the DOE to set lofty goals, but real education is a product of the magic that occurs between teachers and students in the classroom, not the boardroom.

The United Federation of Teachers is prepared to fight for real collaboration and the conditions necessary for every school community to help students succeed because we feel that the school system has an unprecedented opportunity to excel.

Given the additional state education funding and other resources our

school system is slated to receive this year, New York City public schools are in a position to make solid and sustained academic improvement. We should focus on utilizing the additional resources to:

- Reduce class size
- Improve school discipline
- Engage in meaningful partnership that emphasizes a team approach to tackling the problems of individual schools. This will strengthen the bond between stakeholders in education and put our schools on a path of sustained academic improvement.

Our educators can work within any structure or framework the Department of Education chooses - as long as they are given the necessary resources and support and are allowed to teach without micromanagement or excessive testing and other unilaterally imposed bureaucratic mandates that cut into teaching and learning time.

This is an auspicious time for New York City's public schools, and in order to make the most of it all of the players and those affected are going to have to learn to work together. We at the UFT are ready to hit the ground running, and we can only hope that our partners are, too.



## BROOKLYN HEADS BACK TO SCHOOL — AND THE PAPER IS THERE

### CHECKIN' IN WITH...

## Roberta Davenport

### Take-charge principal



Hollywood hasn't called Roberta Davenport yet, but the life story of this principal of Vinegar Hill's PS 307 reads like one of those inspirational screenplays. She grew up in the Farragut Houses only to return to her old neighborhood in 2003 to take over a school suffering from low attendance, rampant disciplinary problems, and abysmal test scores. Now, the elementary school is known for its art programs and its nationally competitive chess team, and academic performance is on the rise. She checked in with Harry Chandlee to talk about coming back to the old neighborhood.

**Q: You grew up in the neighborhood where you're now the principal. How has it changed since you were a child?**

A: My family was one of the first families to come into the Farragut Houses, back in 1952. My dad worked as a plumber in Brooklyn Navy Yard. Every afternoon at 4:15, the whistle would blow, and you'd see a stream of workers coming home from the Yard. It was almost idyllic, a mix of families from different ethnic groups: you had Irish, Italians, blacks who had just come from the south. It was beautiful, clean, safe. We'd leave our doors open. Everyone looked out for everyone else.

**Q: So what happened?**

A: I left in the 1980s, when drugs came into the area in a very terrible way. It touched everyone. I had a wonderful experience in the Farragut Houses. The children of today have a very different experience.

**Q: So when you got back to PS 307, what was the situation there?**

A: It was a fragile school. Its academic performance was so poor that the state had taken it over. What I had to do was look at what was influencing the performance. Attendance was too low. We wanted to look at the facilities and

make sure the school was safe, child-friendly and orderly. That summer, we had a devastating break-in that just affirmed we had to build a community school, a school that the community was invested in.

**Q: How do you build a "community school?"**

A: We had to be very clear with everyone what our values were. The parents had to know the expectations were clear. The bottom line for our children was there were certain expectations for what you could do in school and what you couldn't do. Boys and girls, you must come to school on time, prepared and appropriately dressed. Everyone has the right to be in school to learn and no one has the right to stop that. School should be considered sacred time. That meant fighting had to go out the window. We had zero tolerance for aggressive behavior. We had to look at bullies, make sure they were identified and dealt with.

**Q: You also started a lot of after-school programs. How did that work out?**

A: One of the first collaborations was with the Brooklyn Ballet, and some of our children realized they have a love of dance and receive scholarships. I also brought in Chess in the Schools, and it's incredible what has hap-

pened in two years: our children took second place in the national championship and first place in Brooklyn this year. The kind of recognition that our children had not been receiving is coming now, and that transforms them. When we believe in children and set high expectations, our children expect success. For too long, PS 307 had been neglected. We seem to be under the radar. There's great potential here.

**Q: But there's more work to do, right?**

A: Yes. I want to improve academic performance and get 70 percent of the students reading at grade level. It's only 40 percent now.

**Q: Ouch. Is that the most problematic area for the school?**

A: Yes. We're making some instructional changes. We'll be ready this year.

**Q: What was most difficult thing you've had to do so far as principal?**

A: I think to really get in people's hearts and minds, the idea that this is not my school; it's the children's school. I talk to the children, ask, "How can we make this school better, boys and girls?"

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## Media descends on Gibran as Arabic school opens

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

A horde of reporters from around the globe descended on Khalil Gibran International Academy on Tuesday to see if the first day of the city's controversial Arabic-themed school would be as explosive as the coverage it has evoked since the dual-language program was unveiled in February.

But the day went smoothly, as children were escorted into the school's building on Dean Street in Boerum Hill and the school's principal and staff were shielded from the media.

About 50 supporters of the academy donned nametags reading "Welcome" and set up a green "welcome table" for students. But reporters had to cover: protesters who derided the city's first Arabic-themed school as a "madness," the Arabic term for a religious school, were absent from Dean Street — they staged a demonstration outside City Hall instead.

With the opponents elsewhere, the reporters bore the brunt of school supporters' criticism. Rabbi Ellen Lippmann of Park Slope's liberal Kolot Chay-



The opening on Tuesday of the controversial Khalil Gibran International Academy on Dean Street in Boerum Hill was a media circus.

ein synagogue, who is a strong advocate for the school, read a statement denouncing anti-Academy newspapers such as the New York Post and the New York Sun.

"Because we believe certain media are incapable of reporting on this school fairly, we stand in silence, offering this statement only," she said.

Lippmann then ended her "silence" by granting interviews. Meanwhile, a father who had just dropped off his son at the Math and Science Exploratory middle school, which is housed in the same building, shouted — in earshot of the kids — a profanity to express his view of the media.

"Let the kids go to school!" he added.

By 9 am, Garth Harries, who runs the Department of Education's Office of New Schools, stood before a mass of reporters and declared, "The students are in class right now, and they're learning."

That didn't impress the school's opponents. New York Post columnist Andrea Peyser wrote in Wednesday's edition that "New York needs this place as much as it needs another 9-11."

And at Tuesday's rally outside City Hall, Jeff Wiesenfeld, a spokesman for the Stop the Madrasah Coalition, said that in a perfect world, none of the city's 69 dual-language programs would exist. But the Arabic-language one, in particular, was a problem.

"I would prefer these things be the way they were when I went to public school 35 years ago," he said. "I was taught about the Pacific Island people, the Chinese people, the Tatars, the Arabs, and the African people in the context of my integrated classroom."

"But with the Islamic school, you will have to have special observation, special auditing that you don't need in a Greek school or a Chinese school. You don't have a threat from those cultures."

The Gibran academy had a difficult birth. In March, parents at Park Slope's PS 282 protested plans to shoehorn the Academy — a middle school — into their already crowded elementary school building. The Parent-

See ARAB on page 10



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# Bad crime, good collar in park

**By Gersh Kuntzman**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Two thugs violently mugged a woman on Prospect Park West on Aug. 31 — but the perps were quickly collared by a cop on the beat.

The robbery and rough-up took place at around 10 pm at the corner of Sixth Street, where the two female thugs — one 30 years old and one 15 — rushed over to their 51-year-old victim, pushed and shoved her before taking the purse.

Seconds later, Officer Maria Salano saw the older woman toss the cellphone to the ground as she ran from the robbery scene. By the time Salano got to the thieves, the purse was gone, too.

But both thugs were arrested.

**Diaper diva**

A thief working the Berkeley Playground nabbed a woman's wallet after she left it atop her stroller in the popular school-yard between Fifth and Sixth avenues on Aug. 31.

The woman told cops that she had put the wallet on the stroller at around 11 am, but it was gone 90 minutes later. She lost \$80, credit cards and her driver's license.

**Backdoor man**

A man who went away for two days and forgot to close his back door returned to find that a laptop computer had been stolen from his Fifth Avenue apartment.

The 20-year-old man told cops that he went away on Aug. 28 and returned on Aug. 30 — and found the \$400 Toshiba missing. That's when he re-

membered that he'd failed to close the back door of the apartment, which is at First Streets.

**Bar none**

A woman lost her pocketbook after putting it down on a chair in a Fifth Avenue bar on

Aug. 29.

The 29-year-old told cops that she had placed the bag next to her in the bar, which is at 12th Street, at around 11 pm. The woman lost \$44 and several credit and debit cards.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

### Lost laptop

An Apple computer was stolen from a Union Street apartment on Aug. 30 in a daring middle-of-the-night theft.

The resident of the apartment, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues, told cops that the perp entered through a rear window and sneaked through the house to take the \$1,500 laptop computer, before leaving through the same rear window.

### Print error

A driver for a delivery company had a \$300 printer stolen from the back of his van as he was parked in front of a Fourth Avenue building on Aug. 28.

The driver told cops he was making the delivery at around 4 pm to the apartment, which is between St. Marks Place and Warren Street.

### Bad guest

Here's a lesson for all you singles out there: don't invite strangers into your homes after meeting them in bars.

A 34-year-old St. Marks Avenue woman is no doubt recalling that time-honored lesson this week after a man she'd met hours earlier in a bar stole an iPod, a computer and \$120 off her desk.

The victim told cops that she had met the man on Aug. 24 at an unidentified bar. She shared a cab with him back to her place, which is between Fifth

and Sixth avenues, at around 3 am. While she was in the bathroom, he filled his bag with her equipment and cash. She reported the crime three days later.

### Big burg

A thief bashed through the front door of a Fifth Avenue apartment and helped himself to thousands of dollars in electronics and jewelry on Aug. 28, cops said.

The 20-year-old resident told cops that the crime must have occurred between noon and 12:30 pm, when he was out of the apartment, which is between Sixth and Seventh streets.

When he returned, he found the door broken open and his iPod, two digital cameras, two computers and yellow topaz ring missing.

### That damn dog

A man who left his bag at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street so he could chase after his dog returned to the spot to discover the bag gone.

The dog took off at around 11 pm on Aug. 29, though cops are not sure of the pooch's direction. Nonetheless, a quick-thinking thief grabbed the red and black Verizon bag, which contained the victim's wallet, credit card, and dry cleaning slip.

The thief did not pick up the dry cleaning, but rang up more than \$1,000 on the man's credit card, cops said.

## ELEMENTI...

*Continued from page 3*

And then I did something that Caspore never did: I ate at Elementi. Full disclosure? It was a kick-ass meal, from the papardelle with oxtail to the skirt steak.

So as far as I'm concerned, the issue is settled. Now, can we all get back to using Web forums for important discussions, like the gender of a toddler's winter hat?

Gersh Kuntzman is the editor of The Brooklyn Paper and a Park Slope resident since 1991.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Our Park Slope neighbor Andrew Kimball, who runs the Navy Yard, was at Pratt Institute this week lecturing the students on sustainable development. Kimball tells us that the next phase of building at the ever-expanding Navy Yard will be green as money. A coincidence? No way. ... Nest, that Seventh Avenue home decor emporium, has closed. Too soon, if you ask us, but then again, we tended to browse more than buy (which was probably the problem). ... Park Sleepers who have been looking forward to having their parents say at Hotel Leileu rather than in their guest bedroom almost have their wish: the stylish Fourth Avenue hotel is apparently finally taking reservations for rooms starting Sept. 10. ... Raccoons on the rise? We thank our friends at Park Slope Parents for alerting us to the danger of rabid raccoons near the lake. One woman said she was feeding ducks when she saw one of the typically nocturnal garbage-eaters "moseying along in plain sight." That was a warning signal to her, but unfortunately, another woman didn't head the red flag. "The woman starts screaming, jumps up and I see the husband pulling the animal off her. The raccoon had bitten her on her upper thigh," our correspondent noted. ... The opening of the new **Choi Tots preschool** last week was also a tribute to our pal, **Greg Murroni**, owner of both **Greg's Express** carting service and the **Brooklyn Burger Bar**. Murroni, whom **Robbi Shinnon** Hecht calls, "the Shabbos guy of Park Slope," donated the playground at the facility, which is on Classon Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights. Now, if Murroni can get the Health Department to let him reopen the Burger Bar, we'd be happy.

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# Scary home invasion on Scholes Street

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

A woman returned to her Scholes Street apartment on Sept. 2 and quickly realized that there was a burglar inside. All she saw was a man running through the apartment, closing doors behind him, as he fled through a rear window and up towards the roof. He then jumped onto an adjoining building, which is under construction between Manhattan and Graham avenues.

The victim told cops that the 5-foot-9, 160-pound perp got away with two laptop computers and a Nikon camera lens in the 10:30 am burglary.

## 90TH PRECINCT

### What the L?

A woman riding on a Manhattan-bound L train on Aug. 29 lost a \$600 gold necklace and never even saw the perp who took it, cops said.

The 26-year-old Seneca Avenue resident told police that the thief snatched the chain at around 9:50 am and jumped off the subway as the train was in the Montrose Avenue stop at Rushwick Avenue.

Cops say robberies are up in areas around subway stations and bars (see story at right).

### Bad break

A man's South Ninth Street apartment was broken into on Aug. 26 as the thief fled with a fancy laptop and a Razer phone, cops said.

The 22-year-old victim told cops that the apartment, which is between Bedford and Driggs avenues, must have been broken into between 7:30 and 10 pm, when he was not there.

**What a croc**

Thieves cracked into a jukebox at a popular Metropolitan

Avenue bar early on Aug. 30 and got away with \$100.

The owner of the Alligator Lounge, which is between Lorimer and Leonard streets, told cops that the thieves tried to break into the ATM inside the bar, but failed. That's when they turned their attention to the jukebox, stealing enough money to listen to their favorite tunes for hours.

**Hat blocking**

A fur hat was one of the items stolen from a car parked at a South Eighth Street Jewish center on Aug. 22, cops said.

The car has been parked between Berry and Wythe streets, at around 10 pm.

But when the owner returned

to it the next morning, he noticed that the rear window had been broken and the fur hat was gone.

Also stolen was some clothing and a cellphone, the victim told cops.

**Subway mug**

A man walking home from the J-train station at Lorimer Street and Broadway early on Aug. 26 was mugged for his cellphone by two men, cops said.

The 57-year-old victim told cops that the men followed him from the station at around 1:20 am and jumped him, kicking him to the ground and taking the phone.

The man also lost a harmonica, valued at \$50, he said.

## Tipsy? Best wack with a friend in the 90th Precinct

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Slightly tipsy pub-crawlers and late-night subway commuters are being increasingly targeted in Williamsburg's 90th Precinct, officers at the Union Avenue stationhouse told The Brooklyn Paper.

Last week saw a rash of muggings and robberies throughout the precinct — 14 in the seven-day period, up from seven during the same week last year. Many of the muggings occurred in the hip areas around Meserole Street and Montrose Avenue, and the intersection of Lorimer Street and Broadway, said 90th Precinct commander, Deputy Inspector John Corbisiero.

"They're trying to rob people who are intoxicated, frankly," said Corbisiero, who advised club-hoppers to walk together and not flash cash or cellphones. "They come up from behind and hit them."

One of the robberies was at the aforementioned corner of Broadway and Lorimer Street on Aug. 27. The 21-year-old victim told cops that he was walking at around midnight when two men — one black, one Hispanic — attacked him from behind.

One of the perps put him in a chokehold while the other punched him in the face. The Hispanic man ordered him to empty his pockets, which he did only \$7.

In another beating and robbery, a 24-year-old man told cops that he was walking home from a bar on Majer Street between

Leonard Street and Manhattan Avenue on Aug. 28 at 5:30 am when he, too, was approached from behind.

One man put him in a chokehold while another punched him in the face. "Don't f--- with us. We are taking your money!" They got away with \$60 and a Razer cellphone.

A few days later, on Sept. 1, a woman entering the M train at Marcy Avenue was surrounded by two thugs at around 10 pm. The perps grabbed the 33-year-old victim's cellphone — but were detained by witnesses, cops said.

When police arrived, the men were arrested and charged with robbery.

Quick response, Corbisiero said, is the key to stopping these kinds of crimes.

"It's very important to call 911 immediately, so we can canvass the area before the flash cash or cellphones. 'They come up from behind and hit them.'"

Corbisiero said that it has rearranged his officers so that there are more cops on the streets on the midnight-8 am tour. The trouble is, many people don't want cops to be there. "We urge people to walk on streets when they see officers — for their own safety," Corbisiero said. The officers, he added, are not on patrol to arrest intoxicated people, but to arrest the thieves who prey on them.

## 'Dance' moves down the Slope

By Nicholas Sabloff  
for The Brooklyn Paper

It took months in a hot real-estate market, but Jennifer Kliegel has finally found a new home for her Park Slope Dance Studio — though it's not technically in Park Slope anymore.

An institution for more than three decades, Kliegel's studio on Seventh Avenue at Union Street closed in June after the landlord refused to renew the lease.

She'll reopen on Sept. 29 at 630 Sackett St., between Third and Fourth avenues.

"I found this space because I went across Fourth Avenue," Kliegel said. "We're all going



Park Slope Dance Studio owner Jen Kliegel with students (clockwise from right) Mika Schweitzer, Olivia Saleh and Madeleine Pototske.

to be doing it [to find] reasonable rent and a long-term lease."

Though satisfied with the end result, Kliegel still felt burned by the white-hot Park Slope real-estate market.

"There was never any money discussion with me," she said. "I feel deceived."

That said, she was pleased that she could create a new studio "from the ground up" in what was once a garage. Now she'll have air-conditioning and spring-loaded floors — a mini-Mark Morris facility, if you will.

Not all of Kliegel's 500 students, who range in age from 2 to 75, will make the trek west,

but her loyal customers were dancing at the good news.

"It's the only great dance studio in the neighborhood for children," said Theresa Davis, whose 12-year-old daughter, Olivia, has been taking lessons for nine years.

The would-be diva, like her mother, was pleased to hear that Kliegel would be carrying on.

"Jennifer's just like a kid, she's so fun," Olivia said. "Being here makes you like you're around something great."

Kliegel's previous landlords, George and Nicholas Kotoski, were not available for comment.



**Building an appetite**

Like a plate of piping-hot flapjacks, a new International House of Pancakes restaurant is being slapped down on Livingston Street near Bond Street in Downtown. IHOP is popular nationwide for late-night service — but for now, we'll skip the "Roozy Tooty Fresh 'N' Fruity" breakfast in favor of the Lumberjack Breakfast at the nearby Carroll Gardens Classic Diner on Smith Street. The only other Brooklyn location for the California-based chain is on Ralph Avenue in distant Flatbush.

— Adam Rathe

## Fight for historic DUMBO

By Juliana Bunim  
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's one fight where everyone's in the same corner.

DUMBO, a neighborhood now known for art galleries, studios, and even some artists actually living there, will honor its hardworking, bare-knuckled past with a boxing fundraiser to help preserve the historic, yet vibrant, neighborhood between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges.

Hosted by the DUMBO Improvement District, the inaugural fundraiser will feature art, music and dance (that's the tribute to DUMBO's present) followed by a real boxing card put together by Gleason's Gym.

"We wanted to bring the community together to celebrate what DUMBO is now known for — its artists — and its past into one night," said Jane Kojima of the Improvement District.

No fight night would be complete without

someone lacing up the gloves. Luckily, Gleason's owner Bruce Silverglade, was game. "I try to do whatever I can," he said.

The marquee bout will pit Maria "the Blonde Bomber" Frisk against Sacred Downing, the nation's number one amateur boxer.

Not all the clashing will be in the ring. Classical musicians will take on hip-hop artists (albeit with beats and rhythms rather than dukes). Professional dancers will go toe-to-toe with break-dancers to see if the pirotechnic can knock out the moonwalk.

The winner will be DUMBO itself.

"All of the money raised will go to the maintenance fund for the cobblestone streets," said Kojima.

**Fight Night: The Fight to Preserve DUMBO,** St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St., between Dock and Main streets, in DUMBO), Sept. 20, 6 pm. \$50 per person (\$100 per family). Call (718) 237-8700 for information.

## Big time plans for low-rise nabes

Many projects on horizon for Carroll Gardens, C'Hill

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

Boom goes the neighborhood. More than 2,000 new housing units are in the works in Carroll

Gardens and the gritty area along the Gowanus Canal between Sackett and Fifth streets. But a growing number of naysayers want to slow the pace

of development.

"The fear is not one site, it is the health of the whole area," said Linda Mariano, a member of Friends and Residents of the Greater Gowanus. "There is raw sewage in this canal and you should see the flooding. We are saying, 'Fix it now' before it gets worse."

## The Big Boom

Low-scale Carroll Gardens is about to experience a growth spurt of unprecedented magnitude. Here is a rundown of 13 developments to watch.

WHERE	WHAT	STATUS
Bayside Fuel Depot, West bank of the Gowanus Canal between Sackett and Union streets.	Canal-front complex of 10- to 12-story towers with 300-400 units	Toxic remnants still being removed.
340-352 Bond St., at Third Street	Four-story, eight-unit loft-style apartment building	Construction currently frozen because of a code violation.
211 Columbia St., at Sackett Street	11-story building with 13 units	Construction underway.
340 Court St., at Union Street	Townhouse development	Developer Claret Group is still in contract for the site. No architect yet.
333 Carroll St., between Hoyt and Bond streets	Six-story, 31-unit condo	Halted by the Buildings Department in mid-construction.
671 Henry St., on the corner of Luquer Street	Four-story building, five units	The blue construction fences are up. Permits are approved. Construction could start within the month.
Gowanus Village, both sides of the canal, between Union and Third streets	Canal-front complex of several 3- to 12-story buildings, with 400 units	Construction hasn't begun.
Toll Brothers, Bond Street between Carroll and Second streets	Canal-front complex of low-rise townhouse-style condos	Toll Brothers is waiting for Gowanus area to be rezoned for apartments. Could be years.
100 Luquer St., between Clinton and Henry streets	11-story building, 20 units	Construction to begin this fall.
360 Smith St., corner of Second Place	Six-story apartment building with 46 units	Construction underway.
111 Third St., at Bond Street	Four- or five-story townhouse-style condo development, with 45 units	Completion date 2008.
Columbia Street area projects: 5 Columbia St., 86-99 Congress St., 79 Warren St., 104-116 Warren St., 101-115 Baltic St.	Three 4- to 7-story buildings, with 153 units	Has yet to begin the eight-month public review process.
Public Place site, Smith Street at Fifth Street	Several 3- to 14-story buildings, with 400 units	City still looking for a developer.

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# Guards sell false security

By Matthew Lysiak  
and Michael Giardina  
The Brooklyn Paper

## 68th Precinct

A team of men selling a home security system ended up stealing their would-be client's credit card on Aug. 28, cops said.

Luckily, the 35-year-old victim canceled the card before the fake security consultants could make a big purchase.

The victim says that "workers" came to his home, which is on 81st Street near Third Avenue, to install a protective door at 4 p.m. — but he was onto their plot.

The perps managed to successfully add \$2 to their Metro-card, but were denied when they tried to make a much larger purchase at Circuit City because their victim had already notified his credit card company.

Cops said they are questioning the workers.

## Bank bombs

A thief escaped with \$800 after passing a note to a teller at a Third Avenue bank on Aug. 30, police said.

The thief walked into the Sovereign Bank, at 75th Street, at 2:15 p.m., and handed the 31-year-old clerk a note that stated, "I have a bomb. Give me your money."

The teller handed over the money — but tricked the thief by handing over three stacks of cash with \$100 bills on top, but only singles in the middle.

## POLICE BLOTTER

The perp took the cash and bolted for the door before running down Bay Ridge Parkway.

Police are now looking for a dark-skinned man, roughly 30-years-old and 150 pounds.

## Laptop swiped

A Fifth Avenue man lost a laptop and cash when his apartment was robbed on Aug. 28, cops said.

The 31-year-old victim left his apartment, which is near 86th Street, to go to work, but when he returned at 4:40 p.m., he discovered that his laptop, a \$485 in cash had been taken, according to police.

## Purse grab

An employee of a popular 86th Street shoe store had her pocketbook stolen from a back storage room on Sept. 2.

The perp entered the store, which is near Bay Parkway, with no intention to buy a thrifty pair of shoes.

At around 1:50 p.m., he crept his way to the back of the store, near the storage room, and swiped the purse.

Later, he fled the store with the shoulder bag, which contained \$20, including her credit and debit card, police said.

The victim was unable to get a good look at the thief's face.

## Laundry entry

A 20th Avenue Laundromat was literally taken to the cleaners after it was broken into overnight on Aug. 29.

The cleaners, which is near Bay Ridge Parkway, was broken into at around 1 a.m., when perps busted open a side window, and smashed through a

back office door, leading them right to the cash. They swiped \$2,000 from the office, and fled through the same window, police said.

There were no witnesses, so the thieves got a clean getaway.

## Shop swipe

A man who left his car to be fixed at a Bay 37th Street auto repair shop returned to the mechanic on Aug. 28 to find the car missing.

The 49-year-old man was told by the mechanic, whose business is near Croptey Avenue, that thieves had stolen the 2003 Chevrolet Impala.

The four-door sedan has the New York plate number BXK0857.

Anyone who spots the vehicle is asked to call the 62nd Precinct at (718) 236-2611.

## Hot wheels

A man had all four wheels stolen from his 2006 Honda Accord on Aug. 27, police said.

The 33-year-old owner found his vehicle, which was parked on 21st Avenue near Shore Parkway, at around 8 p.m. to find it on cinderblocks. The perps had jacked up the four-door sedan, and lifted the tires and rims in one fell swoop.

## AM burg

A woman's West Seventh Street apartment was robbed after she left for work early on Aug. 26.

The 32-year-old woman returned to her home, which is near Avenue S, later in the afternoon only to find her property missing. Thieves managed to swipe electronics, jewelry, and her passport, police said.

# 'Dance' moves down P'Slope



Park Slope Dance Studio owner Jen Kliegel with students (clockwise from right) Mika Schweitzer, Olivia Saleh and Madeleine Potzské.

By Nicholas Sabloff  
for The Brooklyn Paper

It took months in a hot real-estate market, but Jennifer Kliegel has finally found a new home for her Park Slope Dance Studio — though it's not technically in Park Slope anymore.

An institution for more than three decades, Kliegel's studio on Seventh Avenue at Union Street closed in June after the landlord refused to renew the lease.

She'll reopen on Sept. 29 at 630 Sackett St., between Third and Fourth avenues.

"I found this space because I went across Fourth Avenue," Kliegel said. "We're all going to be doing it [to find] reasonable rent and a long-term lease."

Though satisfied with the end result, Kliegel still felt burned by the white-hot Park Slope real-estate market.

"There was never any money discussion with me," she said. "I feel deceived."

That said, she was pleased that she could create a new studio "from the ground up" in what was once a garage. Now she'll have air-condition and spring-loaded floors — a mini-Mark Morris facility, if you will.

Not all of Kliegel's 500 students, who range in age from 2 to 75, will make the trek west, but her loyal customers were dancing at the good news.

"It's the only great dance studio in the neighborhood for children," said Theresa Davis, whose 12-year-old daughter, Olivia, has been taking lessons for nine years.

The would-be diva, like her mother, was pleased to hear Kliegel would be carrying on.

"Jennifer's just like a kid, she's so fun," Olivia said. "Being here makes you feel like you're around something great."

Kliegel's previous landlords, George and Nicholas Kotosinis, were not available for comment.

# SHADOWS...

Continued from page 3

ty somethings were well-controlled by two large security guards who made their presence obvious.

Aside from people smoking in the bathroom (a common club nuisance), there were no noticeable problems — and no naked woman.

That's a far cry from what local officials expected when Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) brought SLA inspectors to the Club Shadows opening, and the agency hit the establishment with the four original violations.

Shadows lawyer William Spanakos could not be reached for comment.

— Matthew Lysiak



EXOTIC DANCERS? HERE? Club Shadows owner Joseph Domovsky showed off his controversial Fourth Avenue club to The Brooklyn Paper before it opened in November, 2006. He remains in hot water with the State Liquor Authority.

# SINK...

Continued from page 3

the Aug. 8 tornado. Then he knocked POTUS for changing a rule that would prevent the expansion of state-run health care for kids whose parents earn over \$80,000 a year. Then again, the buzz from Staten Island is that **Guy Malin** wants Vito to run for mayor next year, not Congress anyway. ... Cowboys in Bay Ridge? A new restaurant, **Unde Buck**, which is located on 89th Street and Third Avenue, opened last week to rave reviews for a simple, inexpensive, and tasty menu. But to our great dismay, the rumored appearance of a mechanical bull is nothing more than a dream due to, what else, insurance issues. ... **Councilman Vince Gentile** (D-Bay Ridge) is claiming to have solved, once and for all, the mystery of the mysterious humming noise known as the "Bay Ridge Hum." Stay tuned next week. ... We have just received the sad news that **Gail Tepp**, who worked for the **Brooklyn Democrats for Change**, passed away last Monday. She will be missed.

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# Heath-Michelle split has B'Hil gossiping So, who will get the townhouse?

By Adam F. Hutton  
for The Brooklyn Paper

All of Hollywood is talking about the demise of A-list sweethearts Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams — but the pair's Boerum Hill neighbors are much more interested in the real gossip: who will get the couple's \$3.5-million Hoyt Street brownstone?

"I'm more concerned about who buys the place," said Chi Chu, 40, who has lived on Dean Street for seven years, directly across from the couple also known as "HeathandMichelle."

The "Brokeback Mountain" stars bought the three-story brownstone at the corner of Hoyt and Dean streets, for \$3.5 million in 2005 from Australian actress Neill Campbell. If you believe the Oz tabloids, Ledger and Williams had fled his multi-million-dollar beach house in Sydney earlier that year because they were fed up with the paparazzi.

Naturally, Ledger and Williams started to loosen up after the move to Brooklyn — to the

point where he was sometimes spotted riding around on his skateboard and she was seen pushing their daughter Matilda around in a stroller.

And both even joined the fight against Atlantic Yards, lending their names to be used by Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn.

But the beginning of the end — for Brooklyn, at least — came last year, when the couple plunked down \$2.3 million for a Hollywood Hills home they called "The Treehouse." At the time, Ledger told The Brooklyn Paper that the couple simply needed "a place to drop our bags" and that they were firmly committed to keeping their Brooklyn ZIP code.

For now, apparently, only one will. And that gossip — good, old-fashioned real-estate gossip — is what has the neighbors talking.

If they do sell, they should get their money's worth, said local real-estate broker Howard Lee of All Points Realty in Downtown Brooklyn.

The neighborhood has only

gotten stronger since they bought," Lee said. "Rents in Boerum Hill are going up, and the condos being built are selling out. So with a three-car garage and who knows what other kinds of amenities inside, I don't see them taking a loss."

The romance between Ledger, 28, and Williams, 26, ignited three years ago while they were filming "Brokeback," the Academy-Award-winning movie about a 20-year relationship between Wyoming cowboys. Ledger and Williams played a married couple whose relationship rapidly deteriorates, thanks to all that nekkid razzle-dazzle between the ranch hands.

In real life, Williams gave birth and shopped for the 3,600 square-foot Boerum Hill brownstone around the same time as the couple promoted the movie. At the time, Ledger and Williams were reportedly renting a townhouse a few blocks away in Carroll Gardens. Ledger invited some of his new Brooklyn neighbors to the New York premiere of the film, according to Australian newspapers.

Earlier this year, the couple applied for a marriage license in Brooklyn, sparking tabloid speculation about a secret wedding, but the couple has neither confirmed nor denied those rumors (though they had been seen wearing rings).

While the mainstream tabloid media remained in a tizzy over the couple, Boerum Hill remained calm, which is what the actors apparently wanted in the first place.

"I think that's why so many L.A. people move to New York," said Peter Morgano, 27, of Bay Ridge, who also works at the Boerum Hill Food Company. "There is sort of an anti-celebrity mentality here, and they think they can come here and hide out."



Boerum Hill residents have their eye on Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams's ... Hoyt Street townhouse.

Other area residents said the departure of HeathandMichelle would be treated the same way as their arrival: with little fanfare.

"It didn't cause any great uproar when they moved in and I don't think it will change much when they leave," said Eric Gielow, 32, who lives on

Wyckoff Street, just two blocks from the ill-fated couple. "It's funny to me that people care as much as they do about celebrity relationships."

Besides, added Caroline Hill, 25, who works at the Boerum Hill Food Company on Smith Street, "I never saw them together anyway."

## CHICKS



One of Red Hook's celebrity chickens that will be hobnobbing with Willie Nelson and Neil Young at Farm Aid this Sunday.

Continued from page 1  
pepper sauce, said she would rather see the chickens than veteran rocker Willie Nelson.

"They make me happy," she said.  
Mackin, for her part, is very excited to see Nelson, who, along with Young and John "Cowboy" Mellencamp, founded Farm Aid in 1985 to help farms in places that can be described as rolling, or green, rather than smoggy and scrappy.

"I am hoping for a picture of the chickens with Willie for the family Christmas card," said Mackin, whose coop is sandwiched between a glass factory and a Veterans of Foreign War post on Van Brunt Street.

But would she sell even one of her little red hens to Nelson? "No," Mackin said. "I would tell him to buy his own. A chicken only costs \$1.50."

The all-day Farm Aid concert will be Sept. 8 at Randall's Island. Go to <http://www.farmaid.org> for info or to buy tickets.



## 5768

### High Holy Day Services

Sept 12: Rosh Hashanah Eve	8 p.m.
Sept 13: Rosh Hashanah	10 a.m.
Sept 21: Kol Nidre	8 p.m.
Sept 22: Yom Kippur	10 a.m.

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Sept 13: Rosh Hashanah	9-10 a.m.
Sept 22: Yom Kippur	9-10 a.m.

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**Sunday, Sept. 9th**  
1:00 am - 1:00 pm

### Holiday Service Schedule

**Rosh Hashanah**  
September 12 at 8:15 pm; September 13 at 10:15 am

**Rosh Hashanah (second day)**  
September 14 at 9:30 am

**Yom Kippur**  
September 21 at 8:15 pm; September 22 at 10:15 am

**Family Service**  
(for very young children)  
September 13 and 22 at 9:15 am

**Youth and Family Services**  
September 12th and 21st at 6:30 pm  
September 13th and 22nd at 10:15 am

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Contact us for information and holiday reservations. Find out more at our **OPEN HOUSE** on September 9.

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SEPT. 9, 9:30AM, **Hebrew School begins**  
SEPT. 12, 6:45PM, **The High Holidays begin**

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a full calendar of services  
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September 8, 2007

DTZ:NBZ 9



## Brooklyn Heights Synagogue

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and learning opportunities for people of all ages.

### Join us for the High Holy Days!

#### SELICHOT

Saturday, Sept. 8th  
8pm (Free & Open)

#### ERETZ ROSH HASHANA

Wednesday, September 12  
6:30pm (Tickets Required)

#### ROSH HASHANA

Thursday, September 13

9:30 am Morning Service (Tickets Required)

9:50 am Services & Activity Members Grades 6-7

2:00 pm Young Families Service (Free & Open)

#### ROSH HASHANA - 2nd Evening

Thursday, September 13

6:30 pm Evening Service (Free & Open)

#### ROSH HASHANA - 2nd Day

Friday, September 14

9:30 am Morning Service (Free & Open)

#### SHABBAT SHULAH

Friday, September 14

6:30 pm Service

#### SHABBAT SHULAH

Saturday, September 14

10:00 am: Shabbat Morning Service, Brown Bag

Lunch & Study Session (Free & Open)

#### KOL NIDRE

Friday, September 21

6:30 pm (Tickets Required)

#### YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, September 22

9:30 am Services begin (Free & Open)

9:50 am Services & Activity Members

Grades K-7 & Childcare

2:00 pm Young Families Service (Free & Open)

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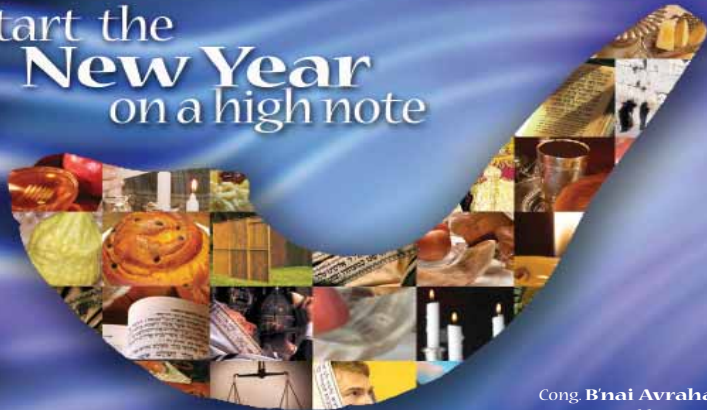
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Wed., Sept. 12 Evening Services 7:00 pm

Thurs., Sept. 13: Traditional Service 9:00 am  
Time Sensitive/Explanatory Service 10:00 am  
Afternoon Service 6:00 pm  
Followed by procession for Tashlikh  
(Casting Sins Away)  
Evening Service 8:00 pm

Fri., Sept. 14: Traditional Service 9:00 am  
Time Sensitive/Explanatory Service 10:00 am

### YOM KIPPUR

Fri., Sept. 21: Kol Nidrei 6:45 pm

Sat., Sept. 22: Traditional Service 9:00 am  
Time Sensitive/Explanatory Service 10:30 am  
Yizkor 12:00 pm  
Final Service 6:00 pm

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### ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 12th  
Evening Service at 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, September 13th

Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.

Tashlich at 4:30 p.m.

Meet us at the synagogue

or the waterfront

to cast our sins away

### Friday, September 14th

Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.

### YOM KIPPUR

Friday, September 21st

Kol Nidre Service at 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, September 22nd

Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.

Yizkor at 12:00 Noon

For more information, please call the  
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Rabbi Joseph Potasnik  
Assistant Rabbi Linda Shriner-Cahn  
Cantor Shira Lissek  
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Grades K-7 & Childcare

2:00 pm Young Families Service (Free & Open)

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Thurs. Sept 13 Daytime services 9 am  
Shofar blowing 11:30 am  
Fri. Sept 14 Daytime services 9 am  
Shofar blowing 11:30 am  
Evening services 6:30 pm

### YOM KIPPUR

Fri. Sept 21 Kol Nidre 6:40 pm  
Sat. Sept 22 Daytime services 9:00 am  
Yizkor 12 noon  
Neilah 6 pm

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Thurs., Sept. 13th at 10 am  
Fri., Sept. 14th at 10 am  
Yom Kippur  
Fri., Sept. 21, Kol Nidre 6:45 pm  
Sat., Sept. 22  
Yizkor and Neilah 5:30 pm

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Sat., Sept. 22nd at 5:30 pm

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### ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 12th  
Evening Service at 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, September 13th

Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.

Tashlich at 4:30 p.m.

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### Saturday, September 22nd

Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.  
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**Congregation  
Mount Sinai**  
250 Cadman Plaza West  
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, NY 11201



## FOLLY

Continued from page 1

— 17 percent from Park Slope. "The problem is people [from outside the area] don't know about [the tourist trolley]," Colton said, adding that she could not evaluate the wisdom of Markowitz's investment in a new trolley without knowing what other changes are in store for the program.

"It's worth spending valuable resources on something like this," she asked. "It can be, but only if investment [in the vehicle] is matched with a serious marketing push, otherwise no one will know about it."

Markowitz declined to comment on the report. Salpeter said this week that she hopes the Borough President will help promote the trolley more broadly through his Borough Hall-based tourism organization.

"The trolley clearly needs to be marketed in a more targeted fashion," she said, adding that she had hoped the report, which Heart of Brooklyn commissioned, would focus less on the weaknesses of our trolley and more on how successful tourist shuttles operate in other cities.

"We were hoping to learn who was doing something innovative," she said.

Indeed, New York lags behind other cities in using trolleys — even fake ones — as a tourism-generating attraction. In Philadelphia, more than 20,000 people ride the city's purple "Philly" shuttles in its busiest month. The Philly runs every eight to 12 minutes every day from March until November. Riders pay a buck for each ride.

Unlike in New York, Philly's government invested in marketing and designing the vehicles to be recognizable to tourists. In Chicago, the city operates trolley buses along four routes. The free and widely publicized shuttles run three times an hour on Saturdays and Sundays year-round. The investment in promoting and operating the trolley shows up in its packed cars.

Heart of Brooklyn got its old-fashioned streetcar from former Borough President Howard Golden. Its \$30,000-a-year operating budget is covered by a grant from Deutsche Bank and funding from the four institutions where the trolley stops.

Heart of Brooklyn is not the only local organization feeling let down by its trolley shuttle. The Brooklyn Children's Museum ran a similar bus from Grand Army Plaza to its Crown Heights center until 2006, when museum leaders concluded that it wasn't worth it.

Like the Heart of Brooklyn trolley, the museum's shuttle had turned into an urban station wagon, used by families to travel to the park and nearby shops. "The greatest benefit seems to have gone to Crown Heights residents who used the trolley to get to Grand Army Plaza and back," Colton wrote.

## ARAB

Continued from page 5

Teacher Association ultimately prevailed, and the city moved the academy into a Boerum Hill building that already houses a middle school and high school.

The city mollified the PTAs at those schools by promising to upgrade their infrastructure.

While parents protested the city's poor communication skills, critics like New York Sun columnist Daniel Pipes and Alicia Colon argued that the school would spark pan-Arab nationalism and, ultimately, homegrown terrorism. Pipes helped found the Stop the Madrasa Coalition.

The campaign eventually led to the forced resignation of founding principal and native Arabic speaker Debbie Almontaser, after she defined the word "jihad" as "struggle." Opponents seized on Almontaser's definition as evidence that she was soft on Islamic fundamentalism.

Almontaser was replaced by current principal Danielle Salberg, a career educator who was also criticized because she neither speaks Arabic, nor has a background in Arabic culture.

Despite the controversy, Najat Handou happily sent her 13-year-old son to the academy.

Handou, who emigrated from Morocco nine years ago, wore a sky-blue hijab and, as a dozen reporters backed her up against a school wall, held an impromptu press conference of her own. "I want my kids to learn Arabic," she said.

Khaled Hasane, who picked up his daughter from school that afternoon, said the controversy made him angry.

"I did not like the media twisting the issue into politics," said Hasane, an East Flatbush resident and Palestinian immigrant. "My daughter's not too happy. She doesn't understand why all this is going on. I don't even understand it myself."

Children poured out of school at 4:15 pm — about an hour-and-a-half after other schools because of extra language instruction.

Adnane Rhoulam, 12, said he spent his first day learning science, geometry, and drama. And he learned how to count to three in Arabic and how to say "hello."

Of course, this being school, there was also the typical adolescent ennui.

"I'm against the school, too," said Gibran student Rudy Alsaad, from Canarsie. "It's boring. It doesn't get out till 4:15, and I already know Arabic. So, it's a waste of my time."

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

September 8, 2007

# Reel changes

Have online movie rentals killed the video store in Brooklyn?

By Juliana Bunim  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Every film comes to an end, and with the continuing growth of online movie rentals, many of Brooklyn's independent video stores have called, "Cut!"

But many others are soldiering on, fighting the industry's King Kong — Netflix — block by block, title for title, genre by genre. Joe Martin, who owns the Real Life South video store in Park Slope and has been in business for a decade, has felt a pinch in recent years — but he's responded by adding an extra day to his rental policy and carrying more obscure titles.

True, he makes less money now than when his store opened, but, he said, "the ship hasn't sunk yet."

Martin and others carry on because true cinema buffs often have trouble finding what they want from a mainstream service like Netflix.

Film noir fans, for example, make their way to Noir Video in Greenpoint, a small shop that's all about bizarre films and snail policy.

"The more obscure, the more bizarre, the better it sells," said Noir Video owner Will Mallick. "As of now, 80 percent of [the store's] income is obscure stuff."

So, if you want to rent "Vampire Junction," you've got to play by Mallick's rules, which require that every movie be returned by 11 pm the day after its rental — and in person. The store doesn't have a drop box and the rental fee is a non-negotiable \$3.

Video Noir has been open for over two years — outliving a local Blockbuster store — and Mallick said his business is still growing, thanks to his offbeat selection.

Mallick said that his unique taste in movies is critical to his success. "I go on the Internet and if the name looks strange, or bizarre, I buy it," he said. "I've been really deep into movies for all my life. I don't really care about the movie or who is in it. I go by directors and it works."

But you don't have to be a noir nut to appreciate an actual video store. Dan Wu, who opened Video Free Brooklyn in Carroll Gardens five years ago, doesn't see Netflix as a competitor. Wu said that while the DVD giant has quantity, he himself has quality.

"It's like the difference between ordering Fresh Direct and going to a gourmet deli," Wu said. "We can have a personal relationship and know what you like."

Wu hasn't changed his business model in response to Netflix's growing popularity. He still



The Brooklyn Paper / Sam Williams

charges late fees — a steep \$3.25 per-day for new movies — and doesn't offer delivery. "I just can't do those things," said Wu.

But Wu can compete with other neighborhood stores, and is considering opening another location in Park Slope. He thinks that Video Free Brooklyn's formula — wide selection, high-energy staff and quality customer service — would work there.

"We have all the interesting art house, cult weirdo stuff, but don't want people to be turned off or think stuff is weird," he said. "We're not too far from the mainstream."

Though even in Park Slope, you're not recommended anyone to go into this business now," said Real Life owner Martin.

Wu said, "We can have a personal relationship and know what you like."

Wu hasn't changed his business model in response to Netflix's growing popularity. He still

## R.I.P

### A history of defunct devices

We've gone from seeing movies at grand, one-screen palaces to renting them to downloading them into our two-inch iPod so we can watch them on the subway. Things change quickly in the world of technology, so GO Brooklyn took a moment to look back at inventions that, though antiques by today's standards, were cutting edge in their time.

—Juliana Bunim

**1906:** RCA Victor's "Victrola" model record player uses cylindrical records made of pressed wax.

**1926:** Scotsman John Logie Baird invents the "Televisor," the first TV. Its screen was postcard sized and showed black-and-white — not black-and-white — images.

**1933:** The first drive-in movie theater. The big screen, and teenage dating, would never be the same.

**1939:** Black-and-white television takes the world by storm at the World's Fair.

**1954:** RCA Victor makes the first color TV. The model CT-100 had a 12-inch screen, and a suggested retail price of \$1,000.

**1963:** Compact stereo tape cassettes and players are developed, paving the way for the mixed tape, a format no iPod playlist could ever beat.

**1965:** Bill Lear, he of the Learjet, introduces the 8-track tape this year, and convinced Ford to include a player in its 1966 models.

**1972:** Atari debuts "Pong" — the first electronic computer arcade game — and opposable thumbs are finally useful.

**1975:** The Betamax video recorder and tapes are introduced.

**1976:** VHS cassettes and players are released, but unattainable. The first VHS-format VCR is only in Japan, and for a whopping \$885.

**1978:** Pioneer unveils the LaserDisc.

**1982:** Remember long boxes? The first compact discs, in their environmentally unfriendly packaging, are released.

**1996:** VCRs begin their long day's journey into night: DVD players are introduced.

**1999:** TiVo, the first digital video recorder (DVR), is unveiled. Finally, we can pause live TV.

**1999:** Netflix is founded, much to the chagrin of college mailroom workers worldwide.

## CINEMA

### Iran's trans

Iran might seem hostile towards some countries, but it sure does love the trans.

On Sept. 9, learn more about the Islamic Republic's surprisingly liberal policies concerning gender reassignment surgeries in "The Birthday," a Farsi-language documentary that will screen at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's "The Best of NewFest."

For those who missed out on the annual June festival, the BAM film series resurrects its award-winners and audience favorites over the course of a single week-end.

Other films include "Saving Marriage," directed by Mike Roth and John Henning, which chronicles the struggle to keep gay marriage legal in Massachusetts.

If the Ayatollah Khomeini granted permission for gender reassignment surgery, anything's possible. "The Best of NewFest" runs Sept. 7-9 at BAM's Rose Cinemas (30 Lafayette Ave. at Abbot Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$11. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). —Christopher Murray

## MUSIC

### All aboard

When Giacomo Puccini wrote "Il Tabarro," the first part of the opera "Il Trittico," he envisioned the perfect setting — a barge docked on the Seine in Paris. Although Brooklyn's Buttermilk Channel might not be the Seine, it works just fine for the Vertical Player Repertory.

"It's the ideal atmosphere," said VPR Artistic Director Judith Barnes. "It represents gritty people and a hard-working life."

Aboard the Mary A. Whalen, the audience will experience the relationship of the characters with the illuminated waterfront as its backdrop. Different from the original, the VPR's production of "Il Tabarro" brings it even closer to home by setting the piece in 1940s Brooklyn.

"Il Tabarro" will be performed on Sept. 7, 9, 14, and 16 at 7 pm at the Red Hook Marine Terminal (70 Hamilton Ave., at Van Brunt Street). Tickets are \$25. For information, call (212) 868-4444 or visit [www.vprarts.com](http://www.vprarts.com). —Chira Cowan

## MUSIC

### Man the Fort

Nobody wanted Woodstock in Fort Greene Park. So it was no surprise when Fort Greene Fest organizer Peter Tulloch encountered resistance from the Washington Park Block Association, a group that was set against his July weekend of music, meritment and, they feared, mayhem.

"I understand their concerns," said Tulloch, "but this is a public park and I think in some ways it's being viewed as their front yard."

So on Saturday, the yard will finally be rockin'. Starting at noon, the festival will include food from local vendors, a screening of Rosie Perez's film, "Yo Soy Boricua," and music from artists like Lizzy Fields, Claudette Ortiz and headlining act Talib Kweli (pictured); a lineup that Tulloch thinks will draw up to 5,000 people.

Vocalist Ortiz said that the festival should foster a sense of community rather than earn the ire of neighbors. "I am looking to buy a place around [Fort Greene Park] myself," she said. "I would like to be able to walk across the street to an event like this."

Fort Greene Fest (enter park at DeKalb Avenue and Cumberland Street) begins at noon on Sept. 8. Free. For information, call (646) 249-5729 or visit [www.fortgreenefest.com](http://www.fortgreenefest.com). —Adam Rathe

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**FRI, SEPT 14, 8PM:**  
Leo Johnson Quartet  
Featuring long time veteran  
jazz saxophonist Leo Johnson

**SAT, SEPT 15, 8PM:**  
Vince Seneri Trio w/ Dave Valentin  
and Special Guest Paul Bollenbach  
Featuring Vince Seneri, dynamic  
Hammond B3 organist, flautist par  
excellence Dave Valentin, & special  
guest guitarist Paul Bollenbach

**SUN, SEPT 16, 7 PM:**  
Elias Sarkar Quartet  
Middle Eastern Music by veteran musicians  
on oud, kanoun, and tabla, and featuring  
Oriental dancers, including legendary Morocco

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**100 Wine Tips**

**Is It Dry?**

By Darrin Siegfried

There's an old poem that I came across that only someone in the wine trade could truly appreciate: it's the lament of an old man who has spent his entire life in the wine business, traveling, tasting, learning and buying. He knows the soil of the vineyards the grapes have grown in, he knows the cellar they were made in. He has worked with great chefs matching wines perfectly with their dishes. He has filled his cellar with outstanding wines from the best vintages, cellared them so that they are at their peak, ready for the enjoyment and pleasure of his guests, and all anyone ever asks him is: "Is it dry?"

There is no doubt that the question I am asked more often than any other is "Is it dry?" but when I ask, in return, "What do you mean by dry?" not one person in one hundred actually knows what they mean. Here's what "dry" means with wine: not sweet. Period. Sweet wine is never dry, and dry wine is never sweet. It's that simple. In order to fully understand the difference between dry and sweet, and how wines get that way, we really have to take a look at fermentation.

Fermentation is the process where sugar is converted into alcohol by the action of yeast, giving off CO2 and heat as byproducts. More sugar, potentially, equals more alcohol. As a rule, grapes from cooler climates have less sugar at maturity than grapes from warmer areas do. This disparity in the amount of sugar in the grapes is why so many German wines, for example, can be perfectly dry at 9 or 10 percent alcohol, while Napa Valley wines often come in at mouth-numbing 15 percent yet still have residual sugar in them. Still, sugar levels before fermentation do not always directly relate to sugar levels after fermentation.

The sweetness that we taste in wine is from the sugar in the grapes that is not transformed into alcohol during fermentation. This is called Residual Sugar. What is often confusing for people who are just beginning to learn about wine is learning to differentiate the taste of sweetness (sugar) with the taste of fruit. There are plenty of wines that are dry (low in sugar) yet smell and taste of ripe fruit. Many of these are terrific warm

weather wines, delicious by themselves or with light foods. Some of them are absolutely wonderful "food wines", matching well with a wide range of dishes. The white wines from Germany and Alsace come immediately to mind. If you haven't tried Choucroute Garnie, "real" sauerkraut with several cuts of fresh and smoked pork and pork sausages with a cold, crisp Riesling or Pinot Blanc, you're missing out on one of life's great pleasures.

The fermentation process stops naturally when either all of the available sugar has been turned into alcohol or when the alcohol level has become high enough to kill off the yeast cells. Different strains of yeast can survive in varying concentrations of alcohol. A wine maker can stop the fermentation by chilling the wine and then filtering the yeast out, leaving intact a desired level of residual sugar. Fortified wines such as Sherry, Madeira, Marsala and Port have pure alcohol added to stop fermentation, preserving their naturally high levels of sugar.

In the United States, sweetness in wine is most often thought of as something to avoid, and I can't understand why. We consume far more sugar in its many forms than the people of any other nation, yet we can't imagine drinking a wine with more than a trace of it. Cola drinks contain the same amount of sugar that you'd get if you took your morning coffee with five sugars! Even dessert wines aren't that sweet. Most of us will admit that we've enjoyed a slice of pizza, a hot dog or a hamburger with a cola, right? Why not try a wine that's about one tenth as sweet?

A bit of residual sugar in your wine can often help to balance the flavor of a dish. A few weeks ago, I wrote about Vouvray and mentioned a dish with a simple cream sauce that complimented the wine beautifully: that "just a touch" of sweetness was just what the dish needed. It's all about balance, really... but that's what we'll talk about next week.

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12 AWP THE BROOKLYN PAPER WWW.BROOKLYNPAPER.COM September 8, 2007

**Raw talent**

*Nanatori goes beyond just fish and makes a splash*

By Adam Rathe  
The Brooklyn Paper

**DINING**

Nanatori (162 Montague St., at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Lunch: \$7.95-\$12.95. Dinner: \$11.95-\$49.95. The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11:30 am-3 pm and 6:30-10:30 pm, Friday from 11:30 am-3 pm and 4:30-11:30 pm, Saturday from 1-11:30 pm and Sunday 1-10:30 pm. For information, call (718) 522-5555.

Spring for this roll: Nanatori's fried oyster roll, at left, is one of the innovative dishes that keeps the dining room, above, busy.

As we moved onto our next plates, the oddest dish was again the most enjoyable. An order of shumai was a bit over-steamed and a Japanese take on crab Rangoon was delicious but heavy with a fried shell and mayo sauce. So when the "Tuna Martini" arrived, spouting a wave of noodles over the rim of its cocktail glass carrier, I knew we were in luck. The raw fish was tossed with a spicy dressing and sprinkled liberally with a crunchy rice, giving it both texture and flavor, and the just-right portion had us both enjoying the dish without feeling too weighed down.

Which was a good thing, since the next dish was a hearty beef teriyaki. Normally I would avoid this, tasty as it was, because when I go out for sushi, sushi is what I want to eat. But I know from experience that sometimes the whole "raw seafood" thing creeps people out, and in those cases

you need a nice, well-cooked piece of meat to placate them while you get your fish fix.

With the appetizers and teriyaki behind us, we were finally able to dig into some fish. A plate of salmon sashimi was fine, if a bit chewy, but quickly forgotten when spicy tuna rolls and — I was beside myself just ordering this — fried oyster rolls arrived at the table. Here again the chef's ingenuity surpassed tradition in the taste department. What might seem out of place at your average sushi spot, crispy oysters with cucumber and a spicy mayo that tastes like a trip to the shore, fits in here and isn't subject to inferior treatment.

There lies the charm of Nanatori. If you're a fish snob with Nobu on speed dial, this might not hit the spot, but if you're an adventurous eater with a taste for innovation, drive right in.

**Seeing stars**

We've always known that Franny's on Flatbush Avenue was a great place to grab a meal — and that it's an especially prime spot for a first date — but we kind of hoped the rest of the world would never catch on.

It was inevitable though, and last week, New York Times food critic Frank Bruni gave the eatery a two-star review, causing a stampede towards Prospect Heights.

"We were busier than normal for sure, and our regular guests were a little overwhelmed," Francine Stephens, Franny's co-owner, told GO Brooklyn. "We always have Manhattan guests, so they weren't that unusual. [But] we had a number of people from New Jersey and Connecticut."

Not that she's complaining. The line at the door never exceeded an hour or so, and the kitchen got to try out some dishes that were previously so popular.

"Our new guests were ordering what Frank Bruni recommended," said Stephens, who added that the only thing the confused new diners was the restaurant's diminutive size.

"People expected it to be larger," she said, "but this is it."

Franny's (295 Flatbush Ave., between Prospect Place and St. Marks Avenue in Prospect Heights) is open Tuesday through Thursday from 5:30-11 pm, Friday from 5:30-11:30 pm, Saturday noon-11:30 pm and Sunday noon-10 pm. For information, call (718) 230-0221.

— GO Brooklyn

**Black Rabbit's hip hop**

Greenpoint is getting popular with twentysomething refugees from Williamsburg and Manhattan, but the neighborhood is still predominantly Polish. So, when Dan Lanier decided to open a bar with an international twist, locals were surprised to find that he was serving more Guinness than Zywiec.

"England has all these gorgeous little pubs," said Lanier, a British ex-pat who's tried to replicate the charm of an English watering hole with Black Rabbit. "The kind of places that are beautiful, but still might have someone getting sick in the corner."

The good news is that the Black Rabbit is beautiful — despite the complete absence of customers yacking in the shadows. The glistening dark wood tables, cork booths and simple red-and-black color scheme — not to mention the portrait of Lanier's dapper great grandfather, whose nickname gave the bar its name, hanging on the wall — create an ambience akin to that of a speakeasy run by a charmingly louche Oxford don.

"The place might look a little fancy, but we want it to be as populist as possible," Lanier said of his two-month-old haunt. "It's the kind of place I'd want to hang out."

The bar's offerings show that Lanier isn't just paying lip service to mass appeal. Black Rabbit offers both \$15 bottles of Lindemans Framboise and three-buck cans of Miller Lite. In addition to whimsical cocktail specials and a healthy selection of wine and liquor, there's also a small but thoughtful menu of sliders, a cheese plate and Welsh rarebit spooned over tater tots.

When the weather cools down, expect to find shepherd's pie and Guinness stew warming patrons' bellies.

How has rapidly gentrifying Greenpoint responded to the arrival of this quaint, snugly, very English newcomer? "Business," said Lanier with a smile, "has been better than expected. Greenpoint's still a real neighborhood, you know?"

Black Rabbit (91 Greenpoint Ave., between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint) is open Monday through Wednesday from 4 pm-2 am, Thursday and Friday from 4 pm-4 am, Saturday from noon-4 am and Sunday from noon-2 am. For information, call (718) 249-1595.

— David Marchese

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*Compiled by Chiara V. Cowan*

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The listings are correct as of press time. Contact the venue before you go to



## OUR OPINION

# Bklyn's tourist trap

The end of the summer is a good time to take stock — and since the summertime hordes of tourists will be thinning, it's a great time to consider the borough's effort to attract visitors and keep them here long enough to spend their money.

Two just-issued reports show that Brooklyn's leaders need to do a lot more.

One study, put out by the Center for an Urban Future and called, appropriately enough, "A Bumpy Ride," focuses on a free, trolley-styled bus that takes visitors around Prospect Park and nearby cultural attractions — the so-called "Heart of Brooklyn" institutions.

Designed as a way of attracting tourists, the seven-year-old bus "hasn't yet had a meaningful impact on attendance at participating cultural venues." In fact, the report pointed out, "awareness of [the trolley] actually decreased in recent years," even as Brooklyn has "taken major steps to raise its profile as a tourist destination."

Instead, the bulk of the minuscule ridership lives in the neighborhoods the trolley serves —

people who use it for a free ride. It is estimated only seven percent of the riders are from outside New York.

"It's clear that the trolley isn't working in its current incarnation," the report concludes. Nonetheless, Borough President Markowitz has put up nearly a half-million dollars of your money to buy a new faux trolley. The report points out — and we agree — that Markowitz will be throwing away money unless there is better marketing and a more frequent trolley schedule, two things that will cost even more money.

It's time to cut Brooklyn's losses. A fake trolley is not a tourist attraction and never will be (although a real trolley, along a more heavily trafficked Downtown Brooklyn route, certainly would be).

A second report — this one put out by the cruise industry — also showed what can happen when politicians spend taxpayer money without proper consideration of whether the cost represents a good investment. Although the report gushes about the \$35-billion contribution that

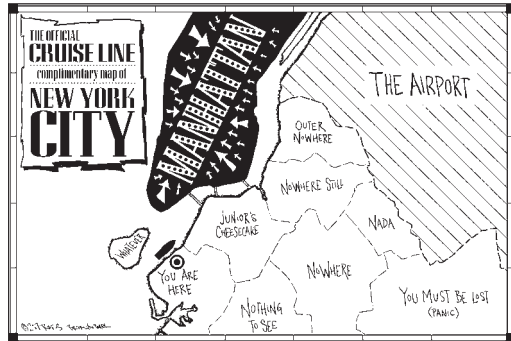
cruise lines make to the U.S. economy, the fine print reveals that local communities don't benefit from the arrival of cruise ships, even when the ships berth in the neighborhood.

Red Hook residents know that story all too well: The city built a \$56-million passenger ship terminal and promised hundreds of jobs and millions into the local economy. Only 14 full-time positions materialized and cruise-related contributions to the New York economy actually dropped, despite far more embarkations and arrivals at local piers.

Of course, when critics — including this newspaper — pointed out that the city's promises were based on faulty, overly optimistic projections, or asked reasonable questions about the city's true motives for trying to evict a long-standing cargo port in favor of a maritime-themed tourist "attraction," they were dismissed as impediments to progress.

But as both reports show, progress in the tourist industry does not always mean throwing good money after bad.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



## LETTERS

# Gersh's push for green angers some Slopers

To the editor,  
Gee, I wonder what planet Gersh Kuntzman comes from because I know it's not Brooklyn. I was born and brought up in Park Slope when it was a true family neighborhood. People fought with each other but were there for each other, too. And they had real problems. REAL PROBLEMS! They didn't go ballistic over rubber bands in the street ("Rubber band man fights on," The Brooklyn Angle, Aug. 25).

I no longer live in my beloved neighborhood. I moved out because of people like Gersh. He invaded like a pack of aliens and destroyed the family atmosphere of Park Slope. Maybe one day, Gersh will have some real troubles and can stop worrying about nonsense.

**Denise Decker, Bay Ridge**  
*Editor's note: Kuntzman lives in Park Slope with his wife and two kids — a family, last time he checked.*

To the editor,  
It seems Gersh Kuntzman has a compulsive disorder with either rubber bands or the postal service (maybe both). I'm all for environmental and health consciousness, but first you must look within your own backyard.

Why doesn't The Brooklyn Paper tell us Yuppies not to put poop (feces) in residential garbage cans when walking their puppies?

And why doesn't The Brooklyn Paper criticize the same people for buying real

Christmas trees instead of artificial ones? Cutting down a tree just for a holiday period, then putting it in the garbage, is environmental murder.

You get my point: It's easier to criticize somebody else than to see yourself.

**Name and neighborhood withheld**

## Remembering Jack

To the editor,  
Thanks for the obituary on Jack Gallahue ("John Gallahue," Sept. 1). He was a master therapist, a man of great compassion and vision, filled with an enormous love of life. All who were privileged to know him felt touched and embraced by his humanity. A truly irreplaceable man!

**Bill Wertheim, Westchester**

## Not sweet on rodeo

To the editor,  
Few things would horrify me more than a rodeo being brought to Brooklyn ("Rodeo gal wants to fill park with bulls," Aug. 25). Without the use of spurs, tail-twisting, and bucking straps cinched tightly around their abdomens and groins, these frightened and often docile animals wouldn't even back.

They are terrorized into action when they have shoved into them electric prods, their necks twisted, when they are yanked by

their tails or legs, slammed to the ground, or otherwise battered.

**Victoria Booth, Bay Ridge**

## She loves Bklyn

To the editor,  
The tourist guides did not prepare my husband and me for the friendly and caring Brooklynites whom we met during our first visit last month.

We delighted in the hospitality at The Tavern on the Green, Tom's restaurant and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. We stared in awe at the Statue of Liberty from the porch restaurant at Fairway. We imposed on Brooklyn folks to photograph us in front of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the East River boat traffic and the distant New Jersey shore.

The most-impressive experience of the entire weekend occurred when my husband forgot his wallet after a ride in a yellow cab. The loss was reported to the police and the cab company. Within 24 hours, a cab company employee phoned to report the return of the wallet by one of their taxi drivers. All of the contents were intact.

The sights of Brooklyn are impressive. But the people of Brooklyn surpass its tourist attractions. We will never forget their honesty and their helpfulness. They turned a possible disaster into an unforgettable, happy memory.

**Beth Thomson, North Reading, MA**

## Lysiak lover

To the editor,  
I moved to Bay Ridge from Downtown Brooklyn earlier this year and want to commend Matthew Lysiak and my newspaper for its coverage of this community.

I was pleased to read Lysiak's column about the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge reconstruction project and the news that it will be completed six months ahead of schedule ("Verrazano fix-up zooms along," Bay Ridge Edition and online, Aug. 25). Like any construction project, it has caused traffic jams and driving hassles.

I want to publicly thank Rep. Vito Fossella for, as your article stated, getting the MTA to finish the project ahead of schedule. It is refreshing to see elected officials pay attention to important local issues and get actual results, not just have photo-ops.

**Michael J. Bruno, Bay Ridge**

## Ridge needs spots

To the editor,  
Your recent story about a new parking lot on 87th Street ("Beep approves Century 21 lot," Bay Ridge edition and online, Aug. 25) did not point out that the 279-space garage will make a tiny dent in Bay Ridge's need for 1,000 more spaces along its three

main retail streets. What Bay Ridge (and all shopping streets) actually need is the AVAILABILITY of parking spaces.

My company, Community Consulting Services developed a dozen strategies to accomplish that, but due to local politics, the initiative was quashed.

**Carolyn Konheim, Boerum Hill**

## Ain't no brothel

To the editor,  
I take issue with your characterization of the property at 153 Lincoln Pl. as a "quiet brothel" prior to its sale and current conversion ("Hot Sheets Lead to Hot Prices," Park Slope Edition and online, Aug. 18).

As a 30-year resident of the block, it was always my impression that prostitution was a minor part of the goings on there. The property seems to have been principally used for time-limited assignments, and for overnight stays of this sort.

Years ago, some residents of the block were against its conversion on the grounds that it would aggravate an already difficult parking problem.

But the inexorable gentrification of Park Slope goes on.

**Saul Raw, Park Slope**

## Ridge ain't N.O.

To the editor,  
Your article regarding the federal relief funding for tornado victims in Bay Ridge caught my attention ("FEMA to Ridge: Ask Bush," Aug. 25). I don't disagree with the fact that those people in Bay Ridge need our help, but what about New Orleans?

Bush was also on vacation at the time of Hurricane Katrina and chose to ignore the situation. What makes Brooklyn different? Bush didn't care then and he doesn't care now.

If it has nothing to do with the war we're fighting for and profits for his corporate pals, you might as well not have a voice.

**Renee Rodriguez, Williamsburg**

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# DOWN ON DUFFIELD

## One resident hopes to save home...

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

All she wants is a meeting with Mr. Mayor.

Homeowner Joy Chatel believes that she could, if given the chance, convince Mayor Bloomberg to abandon a longstanding plan to raze her Duffield Street home — a wood-frame structure that many historians believe was a stop on the Underground Railroad — to make way for a new park and an underground garage. “If I met with him, we could come to some terms. I know I should have a chance to try,” said the activist, whose house once belonged to abolitionist Harriet Truesdale.

Chatel did meet the mayor in his first term — before the city hatched the multi-billion-dollar plan to replace her modest home with a plaza for office workers and hotel guests in a newly revived Downtown Brooklyn. The pair talked about improving Brooklyn's schools, she said.

“[Bloomberg] was so easy-going and open to listening. That's why I voted for him and why I want to meet with him,” she said.

Then, last month, Mayor Bloomberg announced that he would recognize the abolitionist work that happened on Duffield Street with a \$2-million commemoration nearby — but not spare Chatel's house from the wrecking ball.

Chatel's property is one of more than a dozen named in the HPD determination, which must be challenged within 30 days. Chatel said she will fight the Bloomberg Administration

determination — even as she's trying to meet with Hizzoner. “Then again, he added, “We're talking about someone's home.”

A city spokeswoman could



Joy Chatel

tion and Development issued the legal determination that sets into motion New York's lengthy eminent domain procedure.

The letter came after a city-funded consultant report claimed there was no Underground Railroad activity at Chatel's house — a report that was trashed by eight of its 12 peer-reviewers.

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The underground garage for this hotel would replace several houses on Duffield Street in Downtown that owners believe were once stations on the Underground Railroad.

determination — even as she's trying to meet with Hizzoner. “Then again, he added, “We're talking about someone's home.”

A city spokeswoman could

## ...while another is ready to cash out



Lewis Greenstein, who owns 233 Duffield St., remains convinced that his building, and others like it, were once part of the Underground Railroad.

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Buy me out fair and square and I'll go, Duffield Street building owner Lewis Greenstein said this week.

“It's not about money in my pocket,” the landlord and amateur historian told The Brooklyn Paper. “It's about economics. I know that eventually the city is going to steal [the building] from me. I want a fair price in the open market.”

The offer to leave comes after years of not-over-my-dead-body proclamations from Greenstein, who has been fighting to save his 233 Duffield St. building — which may have been a way station on the fabled Underground Railroad — from the city's plan to raze it and six other houses to make way for a Bryant Park-like office and park development.

Greenstein's change of heart came on the heels of the condemnation of property belonging to his neighbor and ally Joy Chatel (see story above). Expecting a similar fate for his own three-story home, he said this week that he would be willing to sell it to the city on the condition that a tunnel in the basement that could've been an escape

route for former slaves is moved to a museum. He said he would donate proceeds from the sale of his building to commemorate project honoring Downtown Brooklyn abolitionists.

“I worked for the city for 30 years and I just want to see the right thing happen,” said the retired Greenstein, who, ironically, worked for the city's real-estate department.

Greenstein bought the Duffield Street building in the late 1900s. In the decade since, the value of the land has shot up tremendously, thanks to the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, which rezoned the area for high-rise towers and set in motion the process that will soon lead to Greenstein's condemnation.

Greenstein declined to put a number on his sell-off price, but a similar site nearby had an asking price of \$17.5 million in 2005. The site never sold, though, and is now on the same condemnation list as Chatel's home.

A spokesman for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development said that if the city did decide to acquire Greenstein's property, it would negotiate a price before condemning the land.

## GARDEN THIEF...

Continued from page 1

as a snowball. The perps even left behind an empty beer bottle. A trail of leaves led toward Third Avenue — but then vanished.

Getting to the roots of the mystery has proven to be a thorny proposition, since the bandits do their clipping at night and there have been no reported eyewitnesses. Since there is no known black market for contraband foliage, the case becomes murkier.

Yafei believes it could be a crime of passion.

“It is probably just some kids pulling a prank,” said Yafei. “Maybe someone just wants to give his girlfriend some flowers.”

Regardless of intentions, the perps could find themselves in hot water if this operation gets nipped in the bud.

That's because clipping plants is vandalism — and convicted vandals can go to prison. Of course, there is nothing new under the sun; at least as far as plant clippers are concerned.

Only a decade ago, many Brooklyn residents even went to the extent of chaining their plants to the ground, but those days were thought to be behind us. The new band of plant thieves has residents wondering if the time has come to bring back the chains — or maybe even vigilante justice.

“Do I need to chain the rest of my plants?” asked Yafei

with a laugh. “I'll tell you one thing, if I find out who did this I will clip off their hands.”

Officer Jeffery Swain from the 68th Precinct suggested a slightly different punishment.

“Stealing plants is larceny, which means that if you are caught, you could certainly go to jail,” he said. “We encourage everyone whose plants are stolen to report it as soon as it happens.”

Swain says his superiors know that plant theft is a growing problem in Bay Ridge.

“People steal anything that isn't chained down,” he added. “But the motive remains a mystery.”

The manager of Enchanted Florist, a Fifth Avenue plant store, said it's unlikely that the thieves are re-selling the pil-

fered plants.

“People who steal plants out of yards to resell them are going to have a problem,” said the manager, who gave his name only as Steve. “Once the plant is established, it is hard to be replanted and in most cases it will die.”

He said the crime is most likely being committed by kids with nothing better to do. But he added that a full grown snowball like the one stolen from Yafei could sell for more than \$60.

That's a lot of green.



Fatama Yafei, who lives at 247 79th St., is one of about a dozen residents of the block who say vandals have stolen foliage and destroyed gardens.







## The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

# Pitching should lift Cyclones

**SINCE IT'S EARLY SEPTEMBER, WE'RE GOING** back to school. But instead of instructing from the classic New England Primer, we're going to use the New York-Penn League Playoff Primer.

This figurative tome explains that in the New York-Penn League, only the three division winners and the second-place team with the best record make the playoffs. The team with the best overall record (at press time, Brooklyn) will meet the wild-card team (at press time, Staten Island) in the first round of the playoffs.

Both Brooklyn and Staten Island have clinched playoff spots, but it's unclear who will win the division and who will be the wild card.

If the current standings held through the end of the season on Friday, the Cyclones' playoffs start with a best-of-three series at Staten Island on Sunday, Sept. 9, followed by the second game at Brooklyn on Sept. 10, and a third game, if needed, on Sept. 11.

So let's look closely at these two teams. Brooklyn and Staten Island split their 14 regular-season games. The teams are close in ability, but Brooklyn has the edge in this conflict because of its pitching.

Should the Cyclones meet their cross-Narrows antagonists in the first round, Brooklyn will have three tough starts to throw at the Yankees.

Dylan Owen, the Brooklyn ace, would start on Sunday. At 5-foot-11, the right-hander is a head shorter than many of the Staten Island pitchers, but his excellent control makes him dominant.

"He can throw all his pitches for strikes, and that keeps hitters off-balance," said Cyclones' pitching coach Hector Berrios.

Owen has walked only 12 batters while striking out 58, and he has both a league-leading record at 9-1, and the circuit's top ERA at only 1.65.

Dillon Gee, another righty, would start the second game. This season, he's 3-1 with a 2.41 ERA.

"Gee spots his fastball, and his change-up has hitters out in front," said Berrios.

Mike Antonini, a new lefty, has a 0-0 record, with an ERA of 0.46, in his two starts and five relief appearances. He has a sinking fastball and a nice slider that makes him effective against the lefty-heavy Yankees lineup.

On offense, the Cyclones feature a new lead-off man, up from the Gulf Coast Mets, Ezequiel Carrera.

"He's like having another Ichiro," said Staten Island manager Mike Gillespie, comparing our lightning-fast outfielder, with his .345 batting average and assortment of slap hits, deliberate chops, slashes, and bunts, to the Seattle Mariners' MVP centerfielder, Ichiro Suzuki.

Carrera's emergence has allowed former lead-off hitter Michal Schilling to bat second, where Schilling has not only put up a .289 average, but broke the club record for most walks in a season (59).

Schilling can bunt and hit-and-run whenever Carrera gets on — no minor thing in a series that will likely come down to small ball.

Jason Cobb, usually playing first base, will hit third, sporting his club leading 10 homers, and he'll be followed by clean-up man Lucas Duda, surging in both average and power, and coming off a recently-ended 17-game hitting streak. Cesar Carrido, recently called-up from Kingsport, is now the Cyclones' regular catcher.

He has an outstanding arm to use against the Yankees, who like to run.

And now for Staten Island. "They have a very scrappy line-up," said Berrios. "They have very good eyes, and early in the count they'll take off-speed stuff — curves, sliders, and change-ups and try to get ahead in the count."

"They'll also find-out a lot of pitches when they're in two-strike situations."

Andy Braunstein, editor of the Met and Yankee Minor League Reporter, agrees with Berrios' assessment. "The Staten Island Yankees are smart hitters," he said. "Especially tough is the top of their line-up. Not much power, but you have to keep the top of the line off-base."

Braunstein isn't kidding. These guys do get on base. The Yankee lead-off man, second baseman Justin Snyder, is a small left-handed hitter who is hitting .340 (with a .466 on-base percentage).

Braeden Pruitt, also a left-handed batter, plays third and his third is hitting .344 with a .449 OBP.

Hitting in the lower half of the order is 5-foot-7 D.J. Hollingsworth. Another lefty hitter, the diminutive outfielder is hitting .361 with an OBP of .463.

Infielder Damon Sublett is injured, but could return, and he's hitting .323 with eight homers and 52 RBI, an outstanding RBI total for a short-season league.

The Yankees pitching relies on Innance, and every one of the team's 18 hurlers is right-handed. The staff features: Ryan Zink (6-1, 3.43 ERA); Zach McAllister (4-5, 4.52); and Ryan Pope (3-0, 2.15).

Overall, the Brooklyn pitching, which leads the league with a staff ERA of 2.97, should be able to hold all those crafty, slap-hitting lefty Yankee hitters in check.

Brooklyn fans and players should guard against hubris, but plan to be at Coney Island for the playoff finals. You heard it here first.

Channeling the Bard

Each week, Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, will appropriate the iambic pentameter style of his ancient ancestor and offer some final thoughts in verse. This week's contribution, "Staten Island Sonnet," looks forward to the coming playoff battle between the Cyclones and the nefarious Yankees by looking back at the 1951 Dodgers-Giants playoff.

The crime was done — the fun undone that year  
By spy ensconced, a telescope to see  
From center field the signs — they'd peer.  
Those Giants took the pennant home for free.  
A native Scot, but Staten Island raised,  
Yes, Bobby Thomson's still the nicest guy.  
And even he admits those Giants praised  
So much, their pennant run was done by spy.  
Remember, Thomson's Staten Island through and through —  
From New Dorp, Curtis High, and Tompkinsville.  
From '51, that karma comes anew  
To Staten Island, now a better pill  
Its playoff hopes? Oh, no, it's karma's blow.  
Say Brooklynites, "Too bad, you know you owe!"



# TRIPLE-THREAT COVERAGE

## Jacobs leads at plate, in clubhouse

By Patrick Hickey Jr.  
for The Brooklyn Paper

First-baseman Jason Jacobs is having what may be the best offensive year in Cyclones history — but he doesn't only lead in the statistical categories. He leads on the field, too.

The second-year Clone leads the New York-Penn League with 10 home runs, and has a team-leading 43 RBIs — but his teammates look to him for more than big numbers.

"He's our leader," said shortstop Matt Bouchard. "He does so much on the field, but he always gets us revved up in the clubhouse before games, when we need it. He's our guy."

Manager Edgar Alfonzo has certainly noticed the improvement in Jacobs, who hit only .217 last year — almost 60 points lower than this season.

"He's been outstanding," said the skipper. "He's getting chances to drive in runs and he's making the most of it. He's been swinging like the bat well all season."

Jacobs is just three homers and three RBI short of the team's single-season records, both set by Frank Cori in the inaugural 2001 season. Even if he misses those marks, the West Palm Beach, Florida-native is satisfied with what he's accomplished.

"I've had a great season and I think it's because I wouldn't want to take the field with anyone else," said Jacobs, who has hit seven of his fingers at the pitcher-friendly KeySpan Park.

"This is the best team I've ever played on and I think I owe a lot of my success to my teammates. They've had my back all season."

## Yankees throw at our leader

By Ed Shakespeare  
for The Brooklyn Paper

How intense is the rivalry between the Staten Island Yankees and the Brooklyn Cyclones? Here's the latest piece of evidence: The Yankees were leading 5-0 on Sept. 2 when Cyclones' first-baseman Jason Jacobs came to the plate in the top of the sixth to face reliever Jason Kiley.

Kiley's first pitch was behind Jacobs' head. Kiley's next pitch was also behind Jacobs' head.

After that, the deluge! Jacobs started towards the mound. Kiley started towards Jacobs, and both benches and both bullpens erupted.

Within seconds, more than 60 players and coaches were squaring off. Cyclones manager Edgar Alfonzo ordered his team back to the dugout, and calm was soon restored without the services of officers from the 123rd Precinct across the street from the Yankees' ballpark.

Kiley and Yankee manager Mike Gillespie were ejected — but that didn't satisfy Jacobs. "Obviously, I thought it was intentional [to throw at me]," he said.

Gillespie seemed eager to get back to playing baseball. "The fire is out," he said the day after the near brawl.

Perhaps it is, but just wait until the playoffs.

# Paper Exclusive: Ketchup speaks!

By Ed Shakespeare  
for The Brooklyn Paper

One of the three racing hot dogs who sprint from the left field wall to home plate after the top of fifth inning says he still has a shot to win it all.

Ketchup — not his real name — told The Brooklyn Paper that he intends to battle his fellow franks Relish and Mustard until all the crumbs are counted.

Going into the Sept. 5 race, Relish has won 10 contests to Mustard's 9 and Ketchup's 7.

"Being an athlete is about never giving up," the last-place dog said about the indignity (sic) of being the hind hound, his words translated by a hot dog whisperer.

"Sure, I'm in last place — they've tricked and tripped me all year, but I can still catch up. In fact, that's my name — Ketchup. So if Relish and Mustard dog it in the final races, I can still win."

"Every dog has his day!" But at least one fan felt that Ketchup had bitten off more than he could chew.

"I like Ketchup — he's a good dog," said the fan, who admitted to preferring Mustard, as well as mustard. "But he's a bit of a clown out there. That's why, when he's turned it around this year! He's unstoppable."



Ketchup, seen here losing yet another race, hopes to have his fortunes turned around during the playoffs.

## CYCLONES Then & Now

The 2001 Cyclones won the New York-Penn League Championship under the leadership of manager Edgar Alfonzo. Now that Forie is back, many fans are assuming that the 2007 Cyclones will repeat the franchise's former glory. Here's how this year's team compares to that fabled squad:

2001 (Through 72 games) Record: 49-23 Highlight of the week: The Cyclones clinched the division title by scoring five runs in the last four innings, including the game-winning run in the bottom of the ninth on Wayne Lundy's single. Reliever Jason Scobie (3-0, 0.89 ERA) got the win.	2007 (Through 72 games) Record: 47-25 Highlight of the week: The Cyclones beat the Yankees 5-0 thanks to seven innings of unhittable starting pitching by Nick Carr. The team scored three in the fourth, thanks to singles by J.R. Voyles, Matt Bouchard and Raul Reyes.
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## Dad glad with a dinger

By Patrick Hickey Jr.  
for The Brooklyn Paper

On Aug. 25, Matt Bouchard hit his first professional home run in Vermont with his mother and father in attendance.

It was his father's birthday, too.

"I was happy to finally get one under my belt, but my father was thrilled," said East Greenwich, Rhode Island native. "He said it was the best birthday present he ever got. They drove five hours [from Rhode Island] to come see me, so it felt really good to send them home happy."

The homer was certainly the punctuation mark on what has turned out to be a great season for Bouchard, who is hitting .379 since the All-Star break.

Despite making his father's day, Bouchard may have had an ulterior motive in smashing his first homer, a line drive, two-run shot that sailed over the left field wall like it had an appointment with the ground on the other side.

"I told him I wanted the present I bought him back since he was so happy with the homer," said Bouchard with a smile. "He wouldn't give it back though."



Bouchard scores.

379 since the All-Star break. Despite making his father's day, Bouchard may have had an ulterior motive in smashing his first homer, a line drive, two-run shot that sailed over the left field wall like it had an appointment with the ground on the other side.

"I told him I wanted the present I bought him back since he was so happy with the homer," said Bouchard with a smile. "He wouldn't give it back though."

"I think that can really help. I've heard of a few players doing that over the years," he said. "Plus, it'll give him some rhythm. He needs it."

# Cyclones hold on to first place

By Gersh Kuntzman  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Cyclones ended the week with a thin lead over the nefarious (and defending champion) Staten Island Yankees, but the Clones did lock up a playoff berth — and a Yankees-Cyclones first-round battle appeared likely as we went to press.

**Yankees 4 Cyclones 2**  
Sept. 1, at KeySpan Park

After falling behind 2-0, the Cyclones fought back, scoring

single runs, thanks to a Michal Schilling homer in the fourth and a Jake Eigsti double in the fifth. But the Baby Bombers broke open the game, scoring single runs in the sixth and seventh off inconsistent reliever Steve "Impack" Cheney, who took the loss. Schilling remains third in the league in on-base percentage.

**Cyclones 3 Yankees 0**  
Sept. 2, at Staten Island, Game 1

Starter Michael Antonini was masterful over his 4-1/3 innings, but reliever Brent Rustich got the "W" with 1-2/3 innings of

shutout pitching. The Clones scored first on a bases-loaded passed ball, and added runs on a Matthew Bouchard double in the sixth and a Lucas Duda double in the seventh. Duda is fourth in the league in two-baggers.

**Cyclones 5 Yankees 0**  
Sept. 3, at KeySpan Park

Cyclone starter Nick Carr was virtually unhittable, scattering four hits over his seven innings of work and raising his record to 5-2 on the year. The key timing was the fourth, when the Cyclones put up three runs, thanks to singles by J.R. Voyles, Matthew Bouchard and Raul Reyes, and a double by newcomer Cesar Carrido, who later added a SAC fly in the sixth and a single in the eighth.

of Ezequiel Carrera and the two hits by Matthew Bouchard.

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## Dem Bums' last season

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brooklyn Dodgers' final, dismal campaign, The Brooklyn Paper will provide a weekly reminder of the fabled Boys of Summer. Here's this week's highlight:

**Sept. 11, 1957 Dodgers 9 - Cubs 1**  
Johnny Podres went the distance, holding the hapless Cubs to six hits and keeping the third-place Brooklyn seven games back. Carl Furillo was 4-for-5 with two RBIs. Ernie Banks hit one of his 512 career homers for the lone Cubs run.



**Yankees 5 Cyclones 4**  
Sept. 4, at Staten Island

The Yanks cut the Cyclones lead to 1-1/2 games with a come-from-behind win. After the Baby Bombers jumped ahead 3-0 off starter Tim Lincecum, the Cyclones stormed back, scoring two in the fifth on a Jason Jacobs double, and two in the eighth on singles by Ezequiel Carrera and Michal Schilling. But Cyclones reliever Brent Rustich gave up an

eighth inning solo shot to tie the score, and Eddie Kintz gave to the game winner.

**Cyclones 3 Spinners 1**  
Sept. 5, at KeySpan Park

Matt Bouchard hit a walk-off two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth, but Brooklyn starter Dylan Owen was just as much the star of the game. Owen pitched seven shutout innings, striking out 11 Spinners and giving up just three hits.



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CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 29th day of August, 2007, bearing Index Number N050768/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right to assume the name of Risa Chen. My present name is Nancy Chang. My present address is 1594 E. 16th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11220. My place of birth is New York, NY. My date of birth is June 18, 1982.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 30th day of August, 2007, bearing Index Number N050768/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right to assume the name of Rachel Arambits. My present name is Rachel Arambits, a/k/a Raychella Arambits. My present address is 20 Sidney Place, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is New York, NY. My date of birth is September 6, 1977.

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 119636 for beer liquor and wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, liquor and wine at retail in a Catering Establishment under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 457 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, County of Kings for a on-premises consumption. AVIS TOWNSEND

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Notice of Sale. Supreme Court-County of Kings. Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Fairmont Funding, LTD., its successors and/or assigns (Plaintiffs) Against: Sofei Diaz, a/k/a S. Diaz, Gerardo Diaz a/k/a G. Diaz, et. al. (Defendants) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated 2/2/2006. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse, Room 261, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of Kings, New York on 10/4/2007 at 3:00 PM premises known as 2306 Quentin Road, Brooklyn, New York 11229. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the New York City, Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings and State of New York. Section, Block and Lot: 6806-2 Approximate amount of judgment \$424,937.77 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of Judgment Index#734/05 Robert Sgarlatto, Esq., Referee. Steven J. Baum, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 1291, Buffalo, NY 14240-1291. Dated 8/24/2007.

## HOUSES

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**For Sale**  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial#1196350 for Beer has been applied for by AM & PM GROCERY INC., to sell beer at retail in a grocery store under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 6223 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11219 for off-premises consumption

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## EMPLOYMENT

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Answer phones, filing, data entry, and other clerical duties. Computer literacy, experience a plus. Fax Resume to  
**718-852-8428**  
or email to prfmd@aol.com

## Social Work

**Multi Service Foster Care Agency Seeks: Homemaker in our Brooklyn office to recruit, train, & license applicants for foster care. FT w/ flex hours, some weekends & evenings req'd. BA req'd. Driver's license & foster care experience preferred. Send or fax resume with cover letter to:**  
**Seamen's Society for Children & Families Human Resources Dept. 50 Bay Street Staten Island, NY 10301 Fax: 718-720-2321**

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**Painters & Plasters**  
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**Waitress Wanted For Restaurant in Park Slope on 5th Ave. Call Bill 718-541-4088**

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# SERVICES

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Property distribution (separate, joint, real estate) • Spousal support • Custody/visitation/child support • Separation or Prenup agreements • Family Court  
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# HOME IMPROVEMENT

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